DC
25
WILSON
TAKARA
PRIANTO
and
MANY MORE!
POISON IVY™
A 25TH-ISSUE
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
SPECIAL!
13+
TEEN
DAWN OF
DC

DC
ALL IN
Oversize one-shot flipbook on sale in OCTOBER
Darkseid is. Darkseid was.
Two universes. One prophecy.
IT ALL STARTS IN
DC ALL IN SPECIAL #1
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON • SCOTT SNYDER
DANIEL SAMPERE • WES CRAIG

# POISON IVY™

## *Rewilding*

*Part 1 & Part 2*

**G. WILLOW WILSON** *WRITER*
**MARCIO TAKARA** *ARTIST*
**ARIF PRIANTO** *COLORS*

## *Beneath the Surface*

**JOANNE STARER** *WRITER*
**HAINING** *ARTIST*
**IVAN PLASCENCIA** *COLORS*

## *Mushroom Hunters*

**GRACE ELLIS** *WRITER*
**BRIAN LEVEL** *ARTIST*
**ARIF PRIANTO** *COLORS*

## *Boots and Handbags*

**GRETCHEN FELKER-MARTIN** *WRITER*
**ATAGUN ILHAN** *ARTIST*
**DÉBORAH VILLAHOZ** *COLORS*

## *The Pyrophyte*

**DAN WATTERS** *WRITER*
**DANI** *ARTIST*
**BRAD SIMPSON** *COLORS*

## *Art Spread by*

**MARCIO TAKARA** *WITH* **ARIF PRIANTO**

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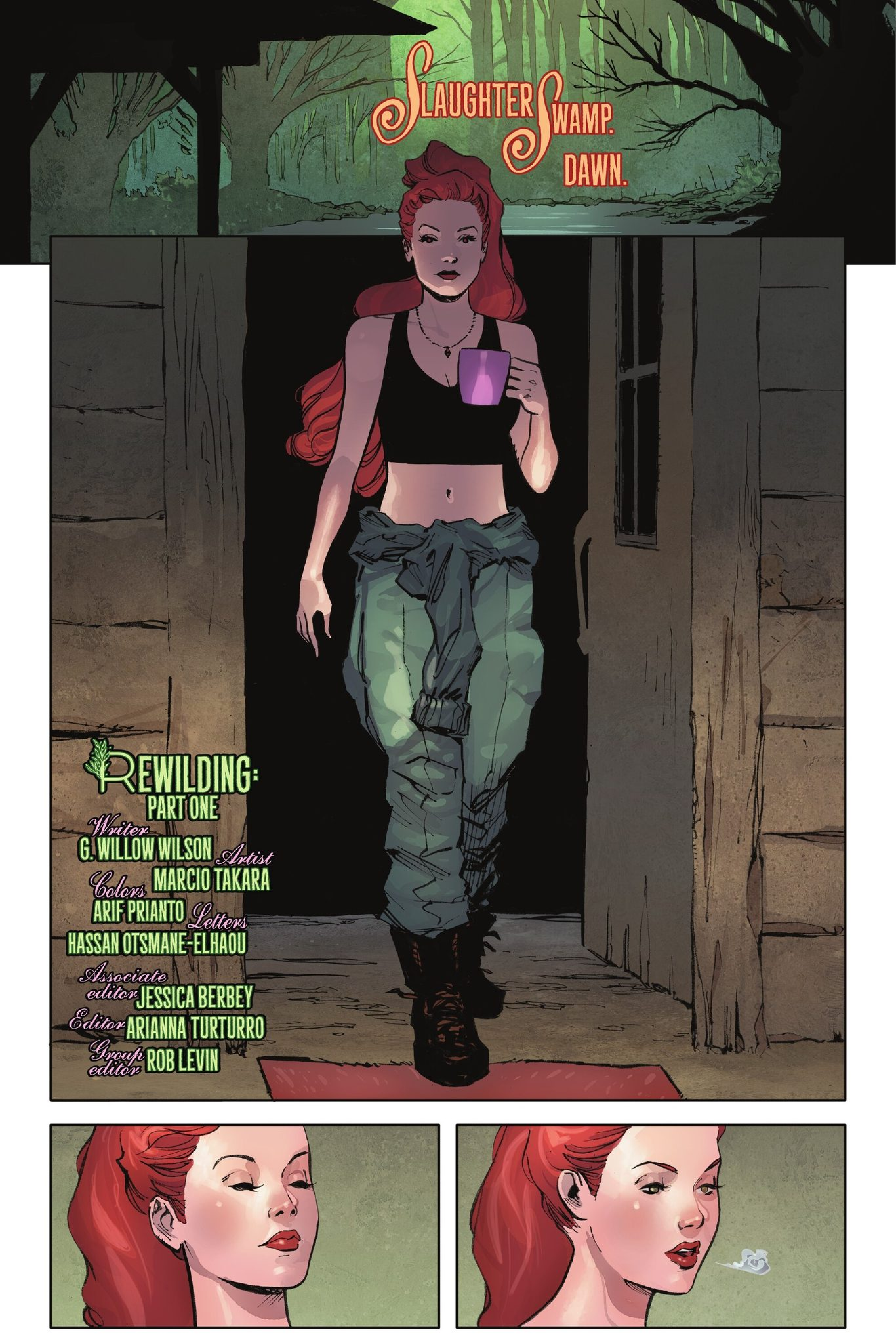
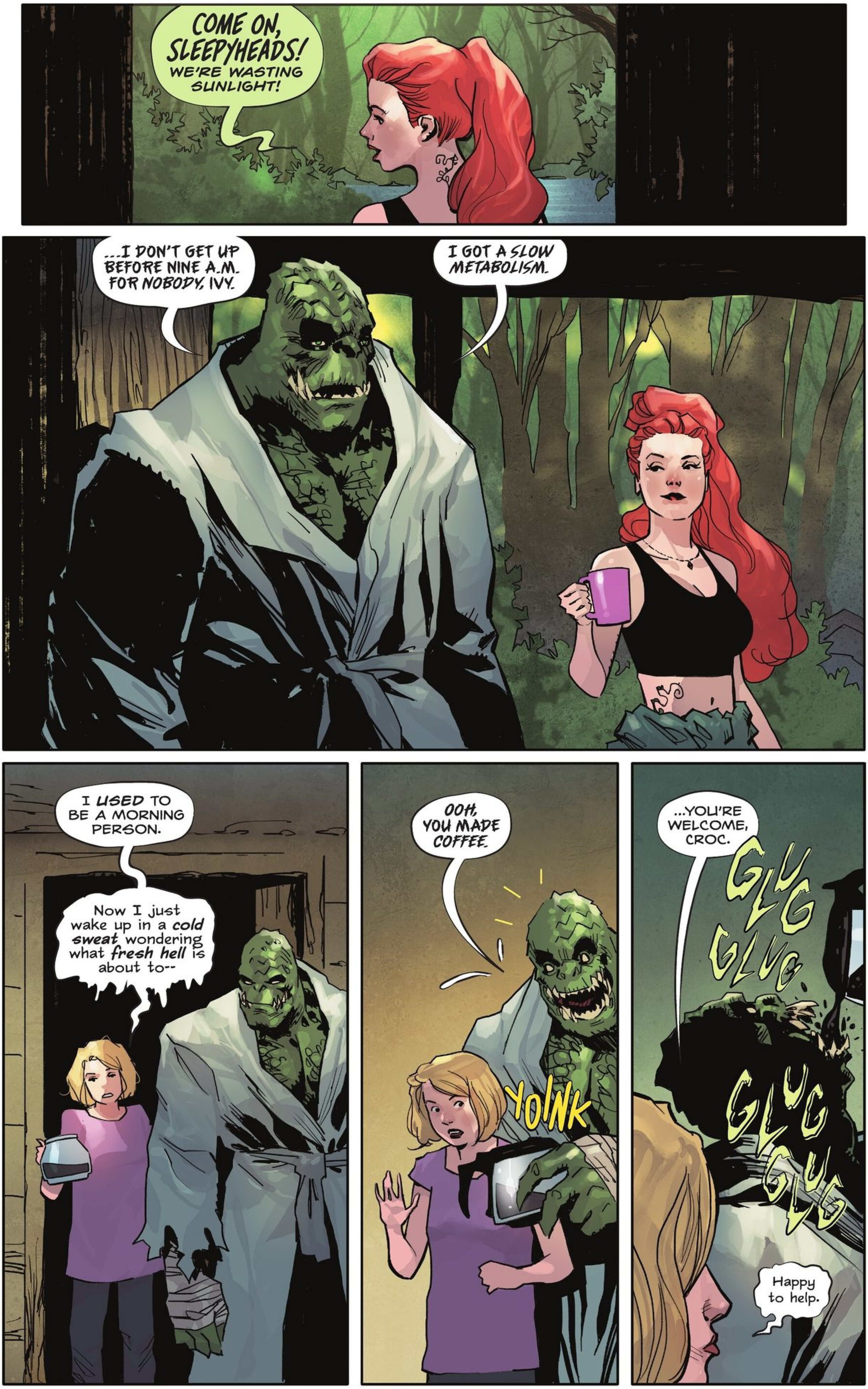
**JESSICA FONG**

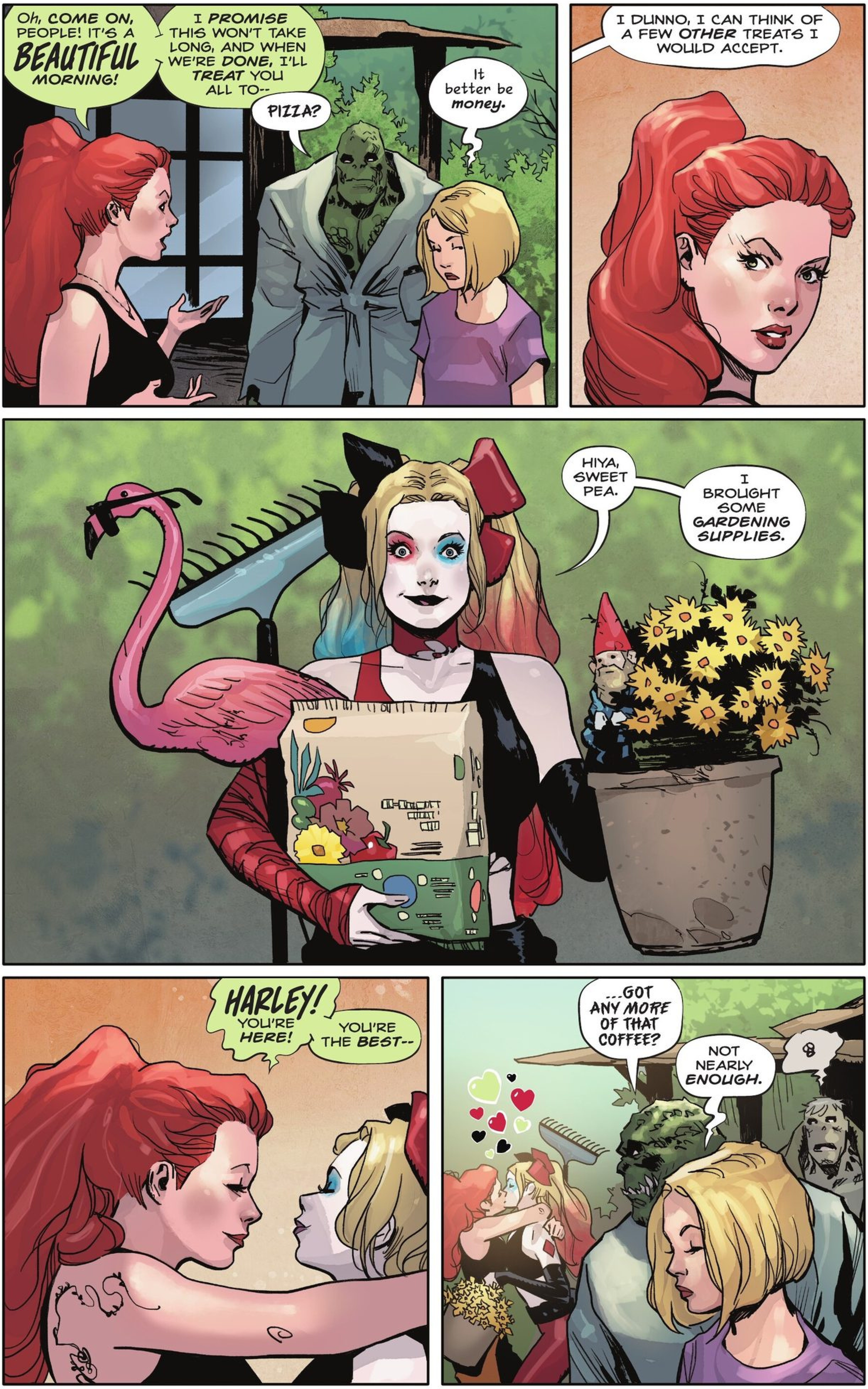
*VARIANT COVERS*
**MARCIO TAKARA**
**NOOBOVICH**

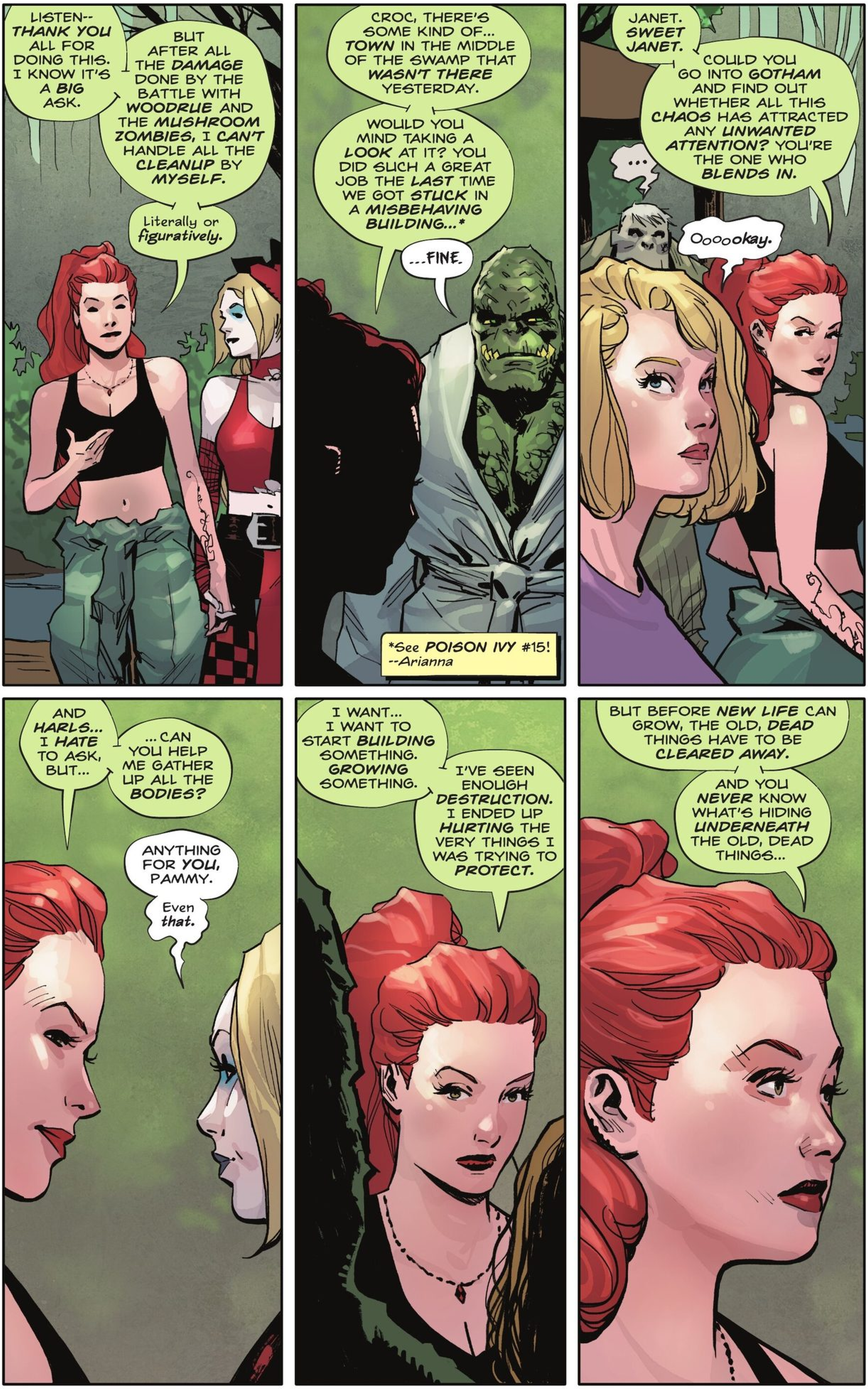
*1:25 VARIANT COVER*
**BRIAN BOLLAND**

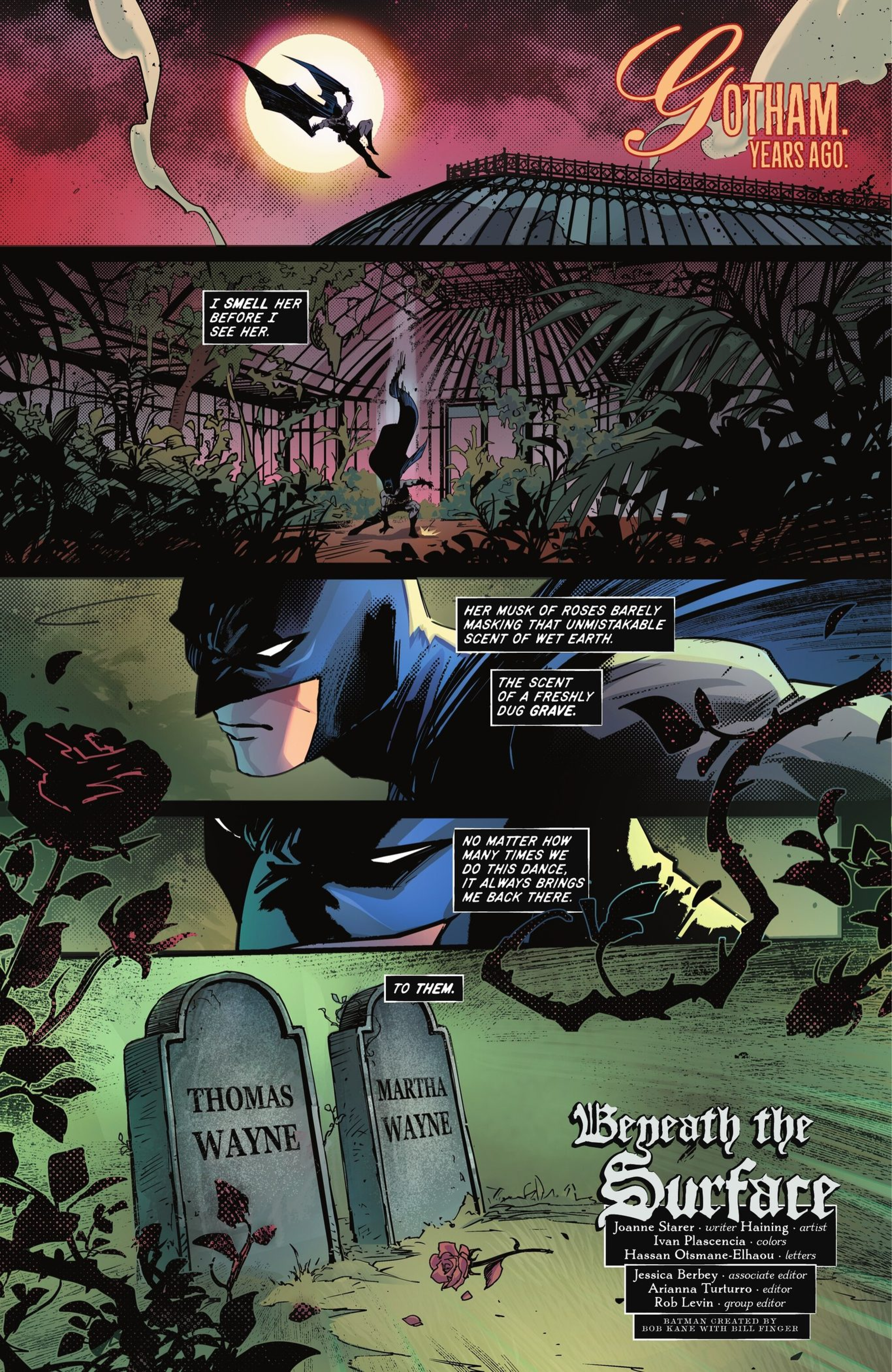
*ASSOCIATE EDITOR*
**JESSICA BERBEY**
*EDITOR*
**ARIANNA TURTURRO**
*GROUP EDITOR*
**ROB LEVIN**


SLAUGHTER SWAMP.
DAWN.
REWILDING:
PART ONE
Writer G. WILLOW WILSON
Artist MARCIO TAKARA
Colors ARIF PRIANTO
Letters HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU
Associate editor JESSICA BERBEY
Editor ARIANNA TURTURRO
Group editor ROB LEVIN


COME ON, SLEEPYHEADS! WE'RE WASTING SUNLIGHT!
...I DON'T GET UP BEFORE NINE A.M. FOR NOBODY, IVY.
I GOT A SLOW METABOLISM.
I USED TO BE A MORNING PERSON.
Now I just wake up in a cold sweat wondering what fresh hell is about to--
OOH, YOU MADE COFFEE.
YOINK
...YOU'RE WELCOME, CROC.
GLUG GLUG
GLUG GLUG GLUG
Happy to help.

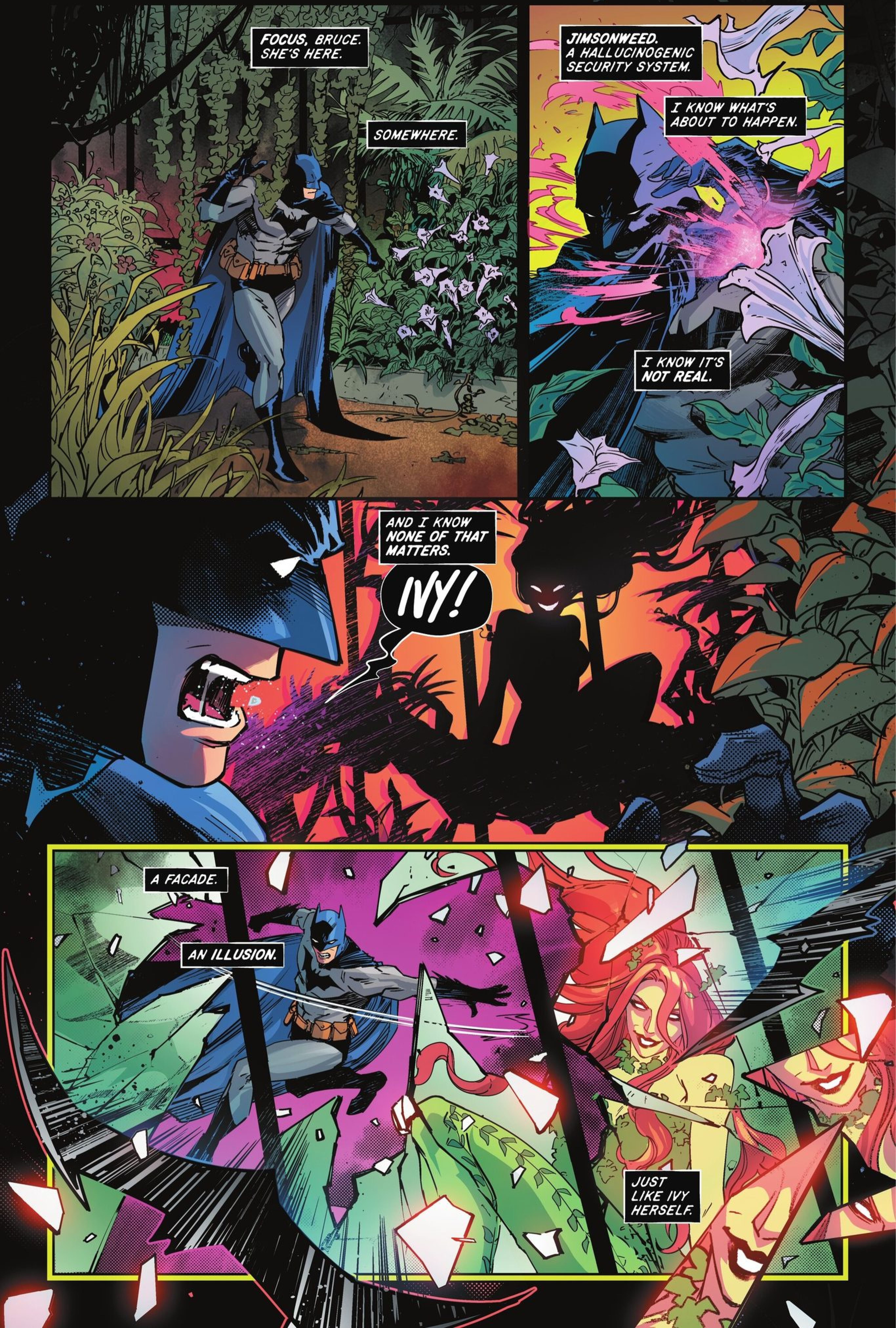

Oh, COME ON, PEOPLE! IT'S A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!
I PROMISE THIS WON'T TAKE LONG, AND WHEN WE'RE DONE, I'LL TREAT YOU ALL TO--
PIZZA?
It better be money.
I DUNNO, I CAN THINK OF A FEW OTHER TREATS I WOULD ACCEPT.
HIYA, SWEET PEA.
I BROUGHT SOME GARDENING SUPPLIES.
HARLEY! YOU'RE HERE!
YOU'RE THE BEST--
...GOT ANY MORE OF THAT COFFEE?
NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.

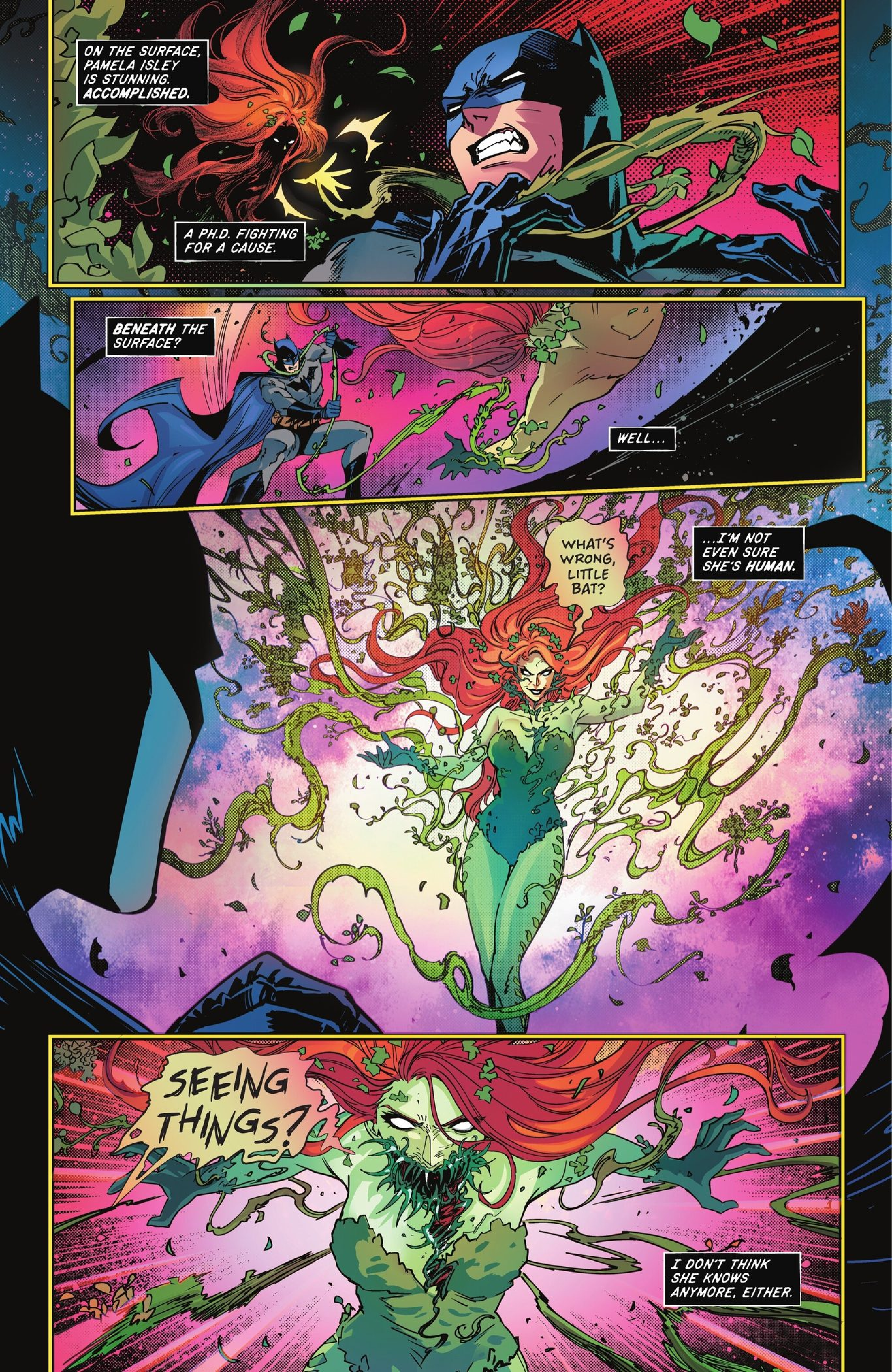

LISTEN-- THANK YOU ALL FOR DOING THIS. I KNOW IT'S A BIG ASK.
BUT AFTER ALL THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE BATTLE WITH WOODRUE AND THE MUSHROOM ZOMBIES, I CAN'T HANDLE ALL THE CLEANUP BY MYSELF.
Literally or figuratively.
CROC, THERE'S SOME KIND OF... TOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SWAMP THAT WASN'T THERE YESTERDAY.
WOULD YOU MIND TAKING A LOOK AT IT? YOU DID SUCH A GREAT JOB THE LAST TIME WE GOT STUCK IN A MISBEHAVING BUILDING...*
...FINE.
*See POISON IVY #15! --Arianna
JANET. SWEET JANET.
COULD YOU GO INTO GOTHAM AND FIND OUT WHETHER ALL THIS CHAOS HAS ATTRACTED ANY UNWANTED ATTENTION? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BLENDS IN.
...
Oooookay.
AND HARLS... I HATE TO ASK, BUT...
...CAN YOU HELP ME GATHER UP ALL THE BODIES?
ANYTHING FOR YOU, PAMMY.
Even that.
I WANT... I WANT TO START BUILDING SOMETHING. GROWING SOMETHING.
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH DESTRUCTION. I ENDED UP HURTING THE VERY THINGS I WAS TRYING TO PROTECT.
BUT BEFORE NEW LIFE CAN GROW, THE OLD, DEAD THINGS HAVE TO BE CLEARED AWAY.
AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S HIDING UNDERNEATH THE OLD, DEAD THINGS...

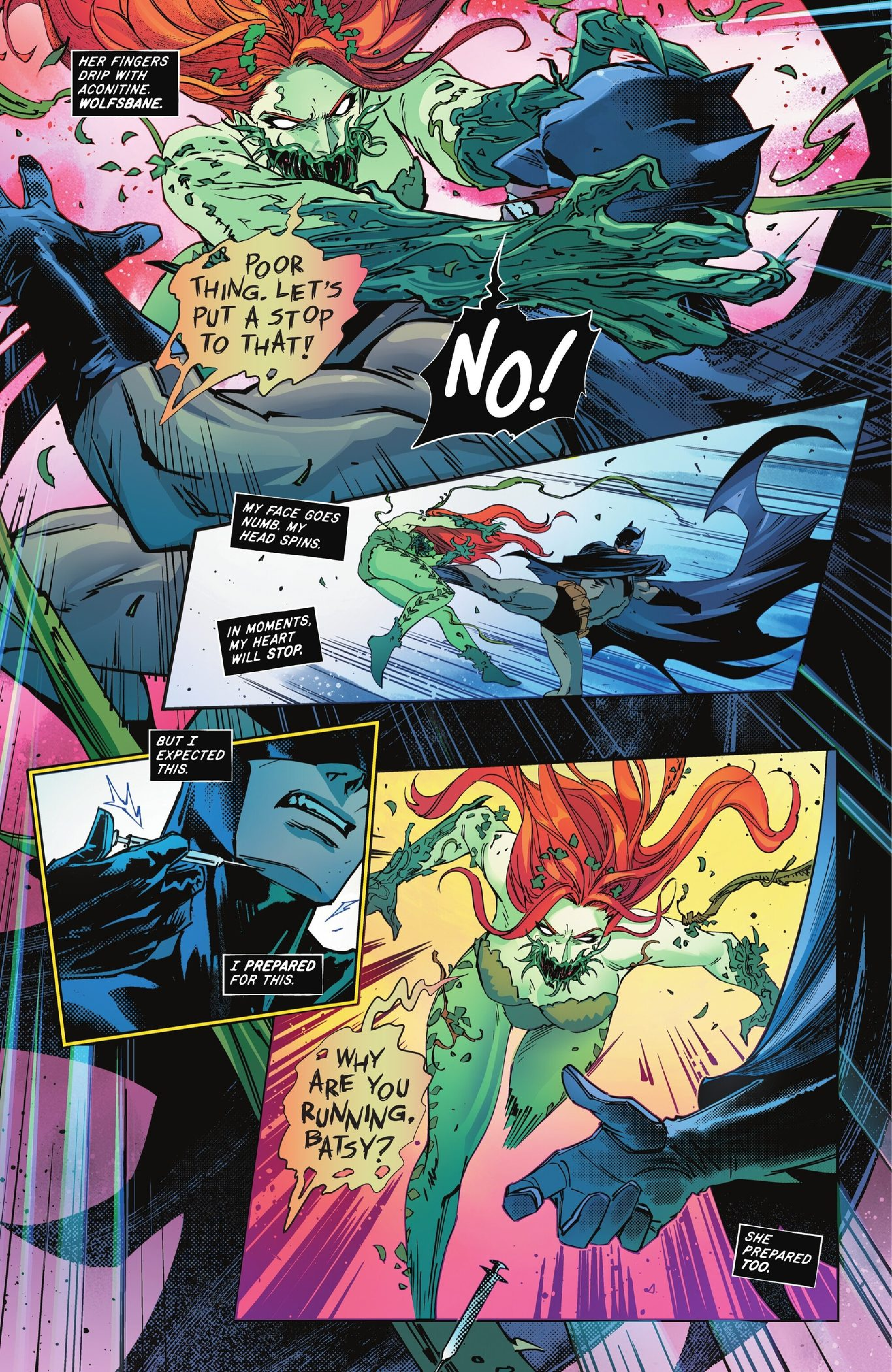

GOTHAM. YEARS AGO.
I SMELL HER BEFORE I SEE HER.
HER MUSK OF ROSES BARELY MASKING THAT UNMISTAKABLE SCENT OF WET EARTH.
THE SCENT OF A FRESHLY DUG GRAVE.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE DO THIS DANCE, IT ALWAYS BRINGS ME BACK THERE.
TO THEM.
THOMAS WAYNE
MARTHA WAYNE

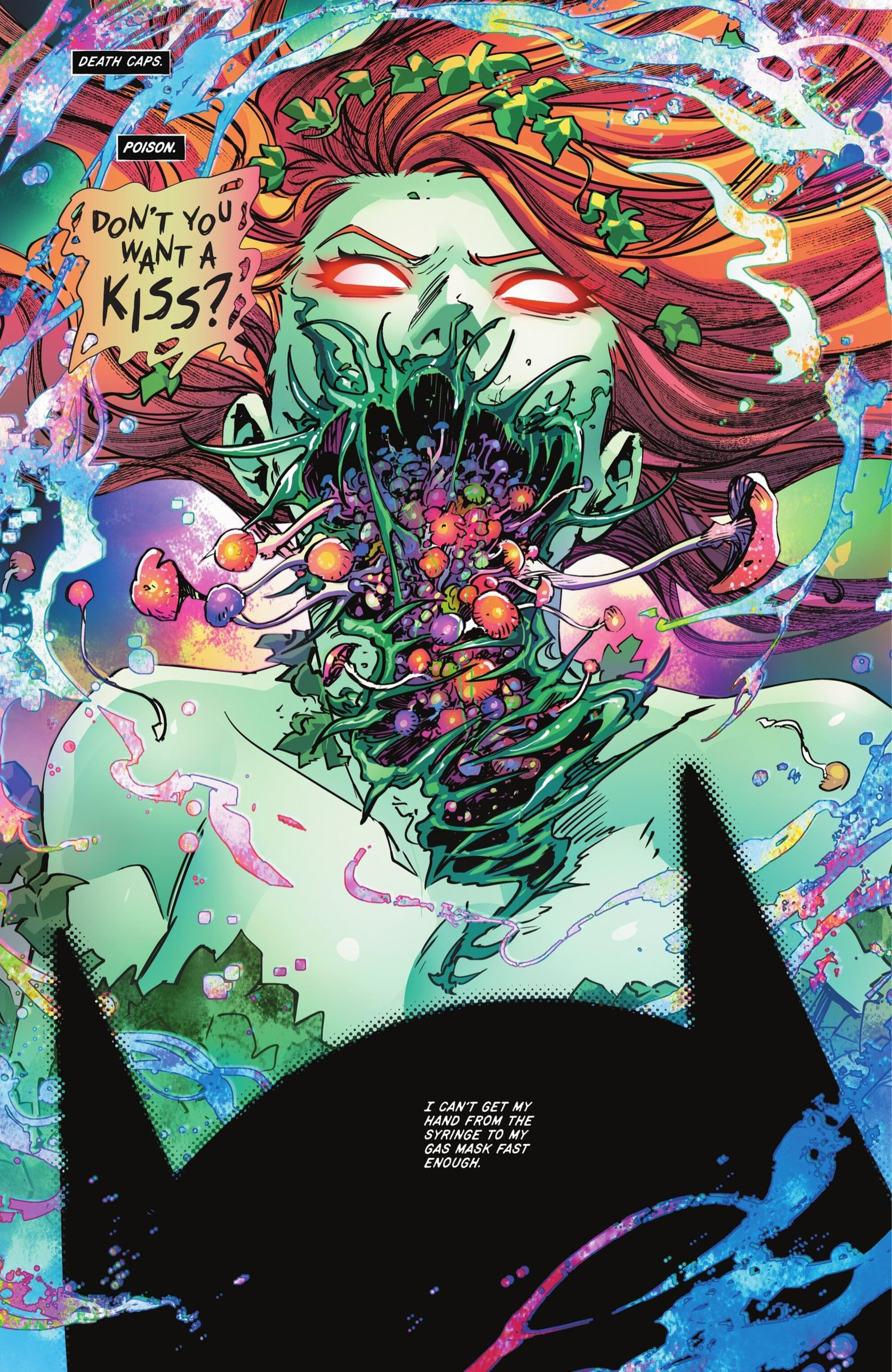
# Beneath the Surface

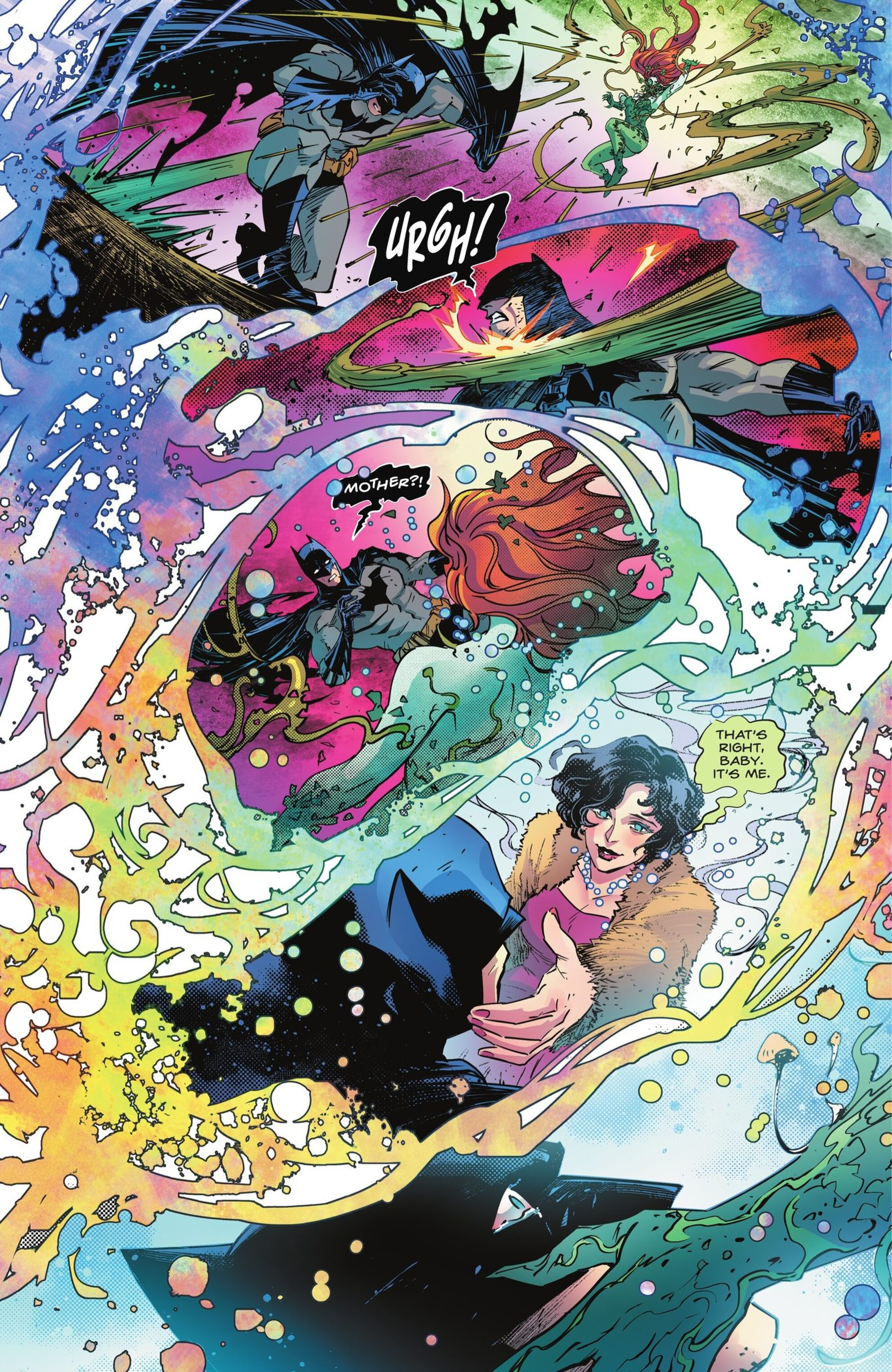
Joanne Starer · *writer* Haining · *artist*
Ivan Plascencia · *colors*
Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou · *letters*
Jessica Berbey · *associate editor*
Arianna Turturro · *editor*
Rob Levin · *group editor*
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

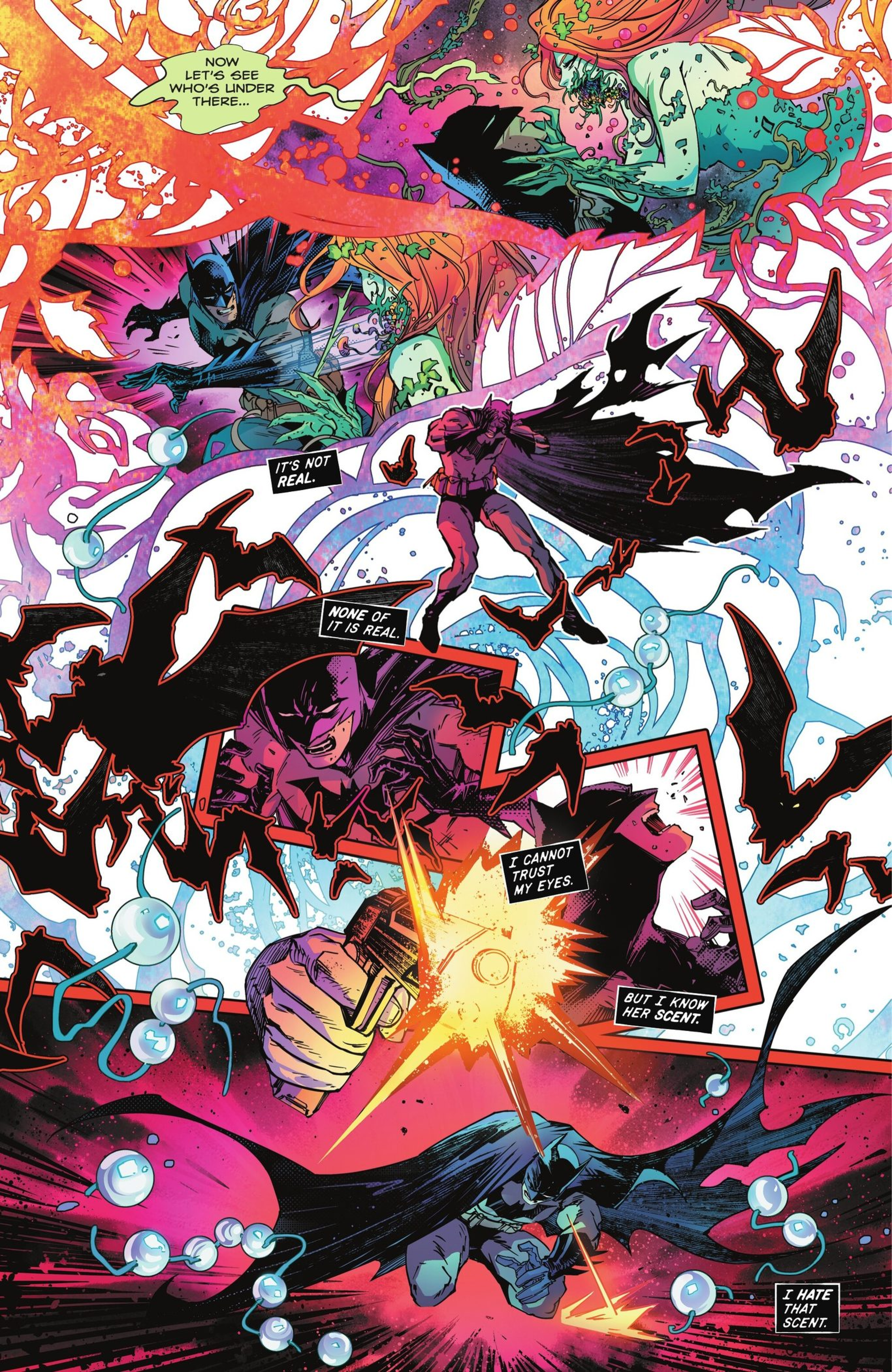

FOCUS, BRUCE. SHE'S HERE.
SOMEWHERE.
JIMSONWEED. A HALLUCINOGENIC SECURITY SYSTEM.
I KNOW WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
I KNOW IT'S NOT REAL.
AND I KNOW NONE OF THAT MATTERS.
IVY!
A FACADE.
AN ILLUSION.
JUST LIKE IVY HERSELF.

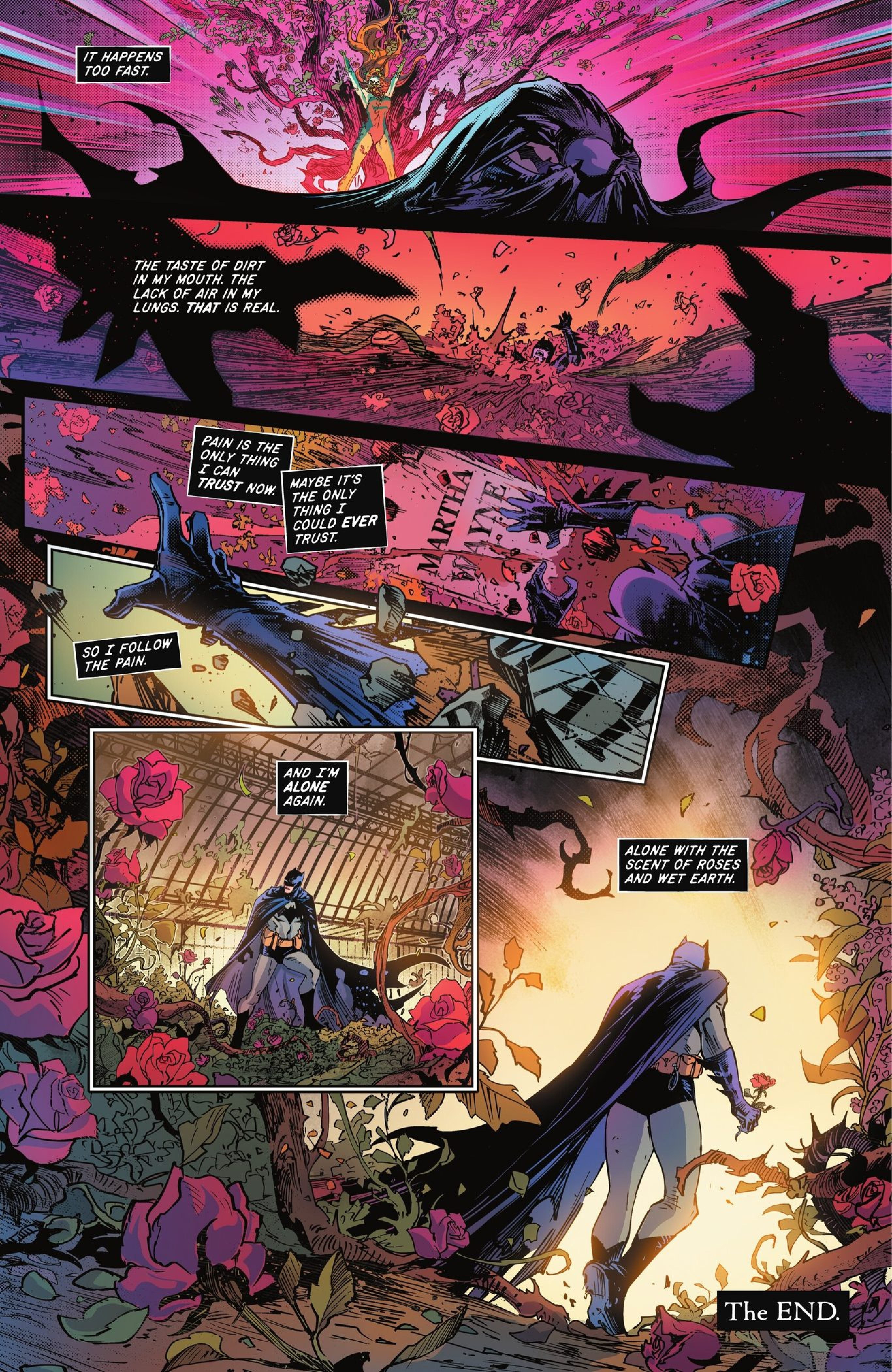

ON THE SURFACE, PAMELA ISLEY IS STUNNING. ACCOMPLISHED.
A PH.D. FIGHTING FOR A CAUSE.
BENEATH THE SURFACE?
WELL...
WHAT'S WRONG, LITTLE BAT?
...I'M NOT EVEN SURE SHE'S HUMAN.
SEEING THINGS?
I DON'T THINK SHE KNOWS ANYMORE, EITHER.

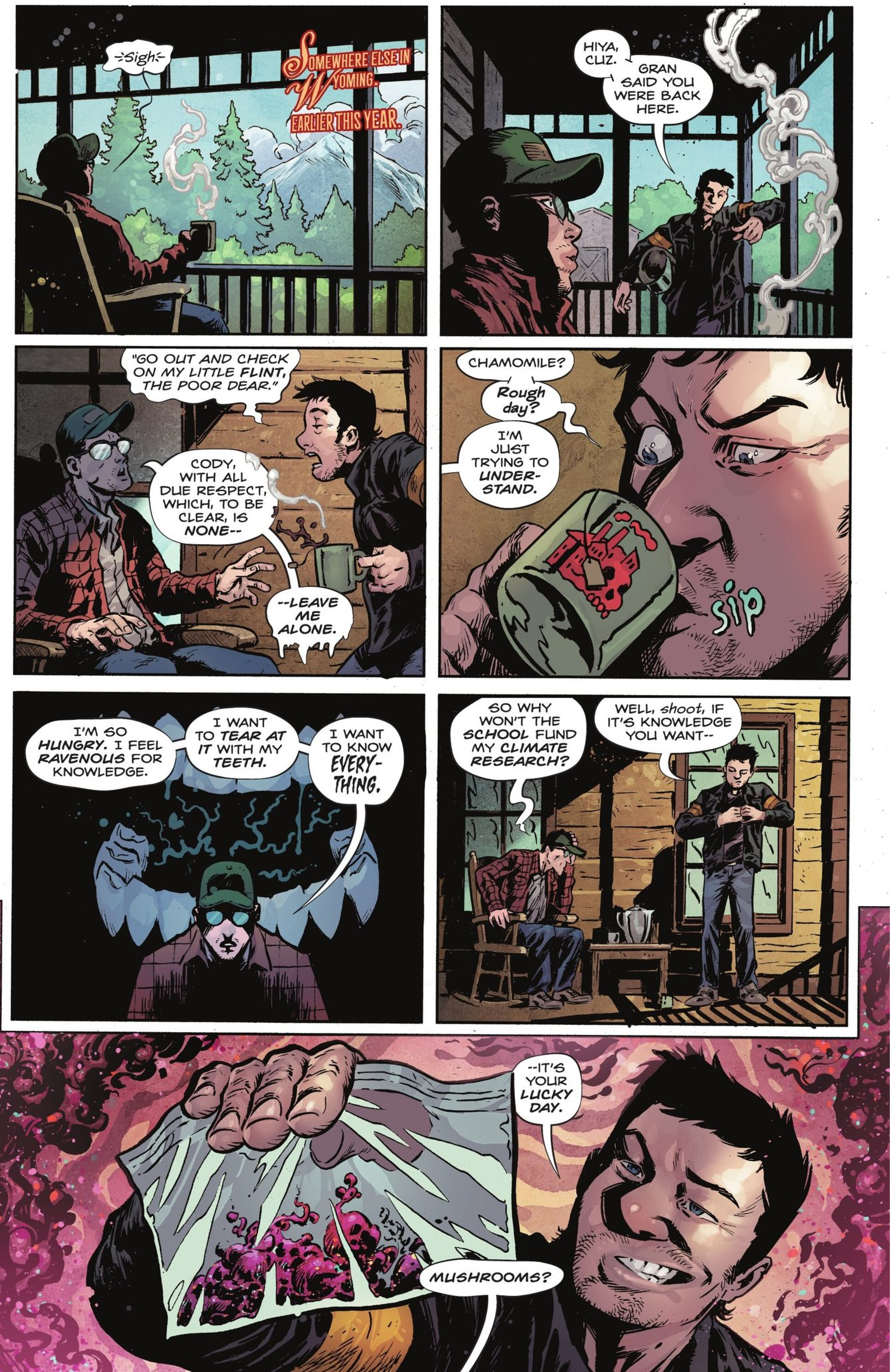

HER FINGERS DRIP WITH ACONITINE. WOLFSBANE.
POOR THING. LET'S PUT A STOP TO THAT!
NO!
MY FACE GOES NUMB. MY HEAD SPINS.
IN MOMENTS, MY HEART WILL STOP.
BUT I EXPECTED THIS.
I PREPARED FOR THIS.
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING, BATSY?
SHE PREPARED TOO.

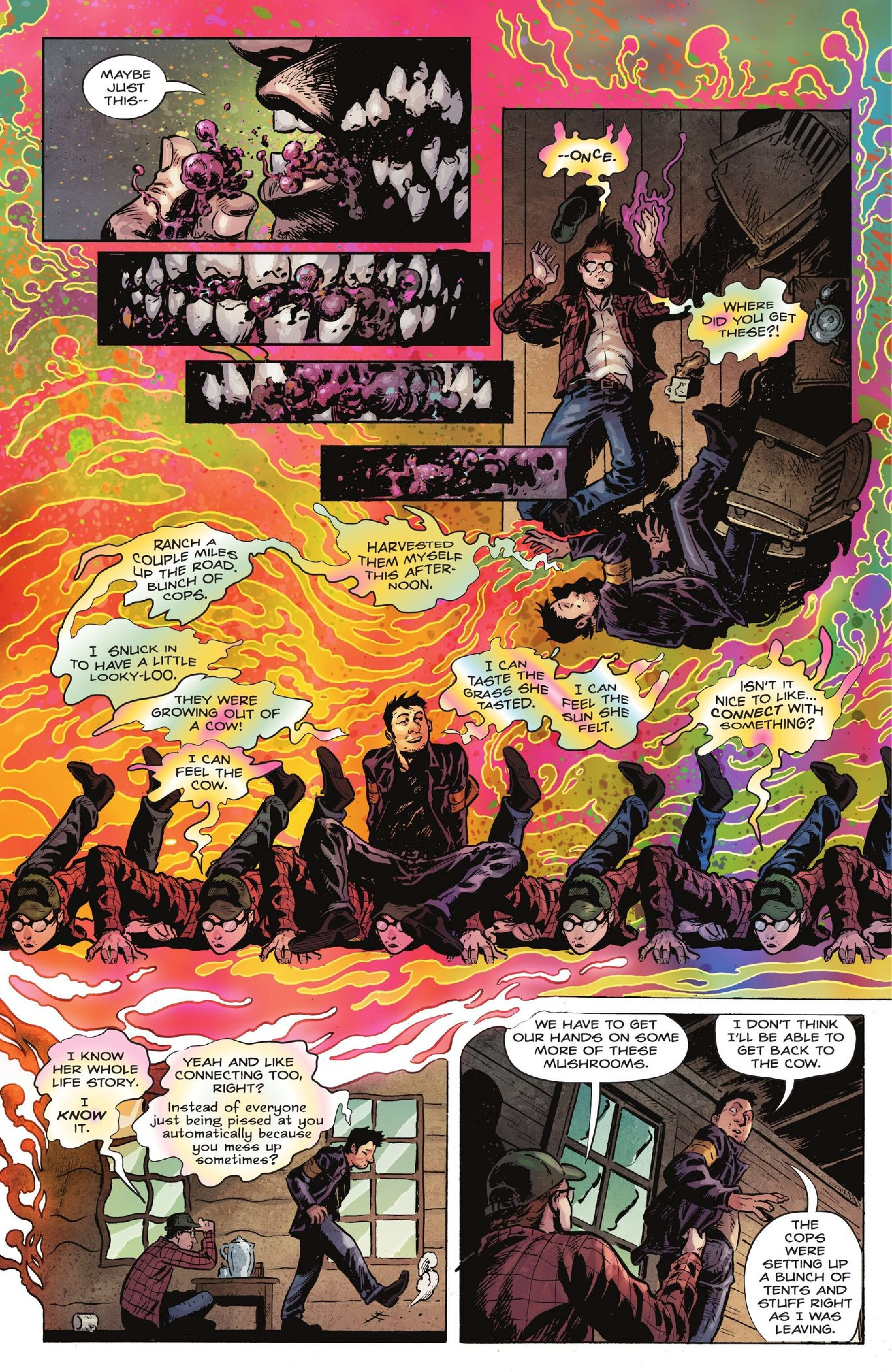

DEATH CAPS.
POISON.
DON'T YOU WANT A KISS?
I CAN'T GET MY HAND FROM THE SYRINGE TO MY GAS MASK FAST ENOUGH.

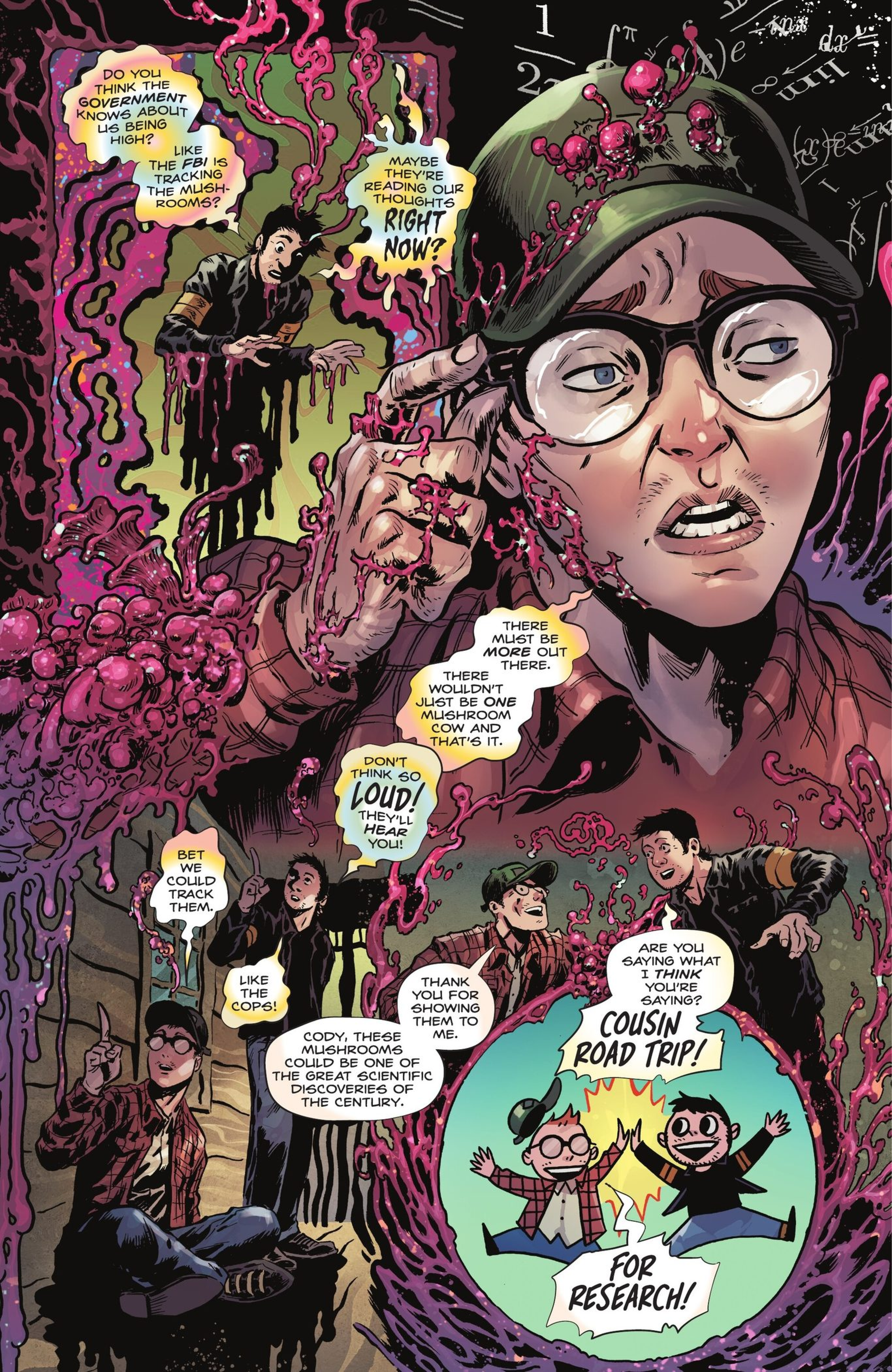

URGH!
MOTHER?!
THAT'S RIGHT, BABY. IT'S ME.

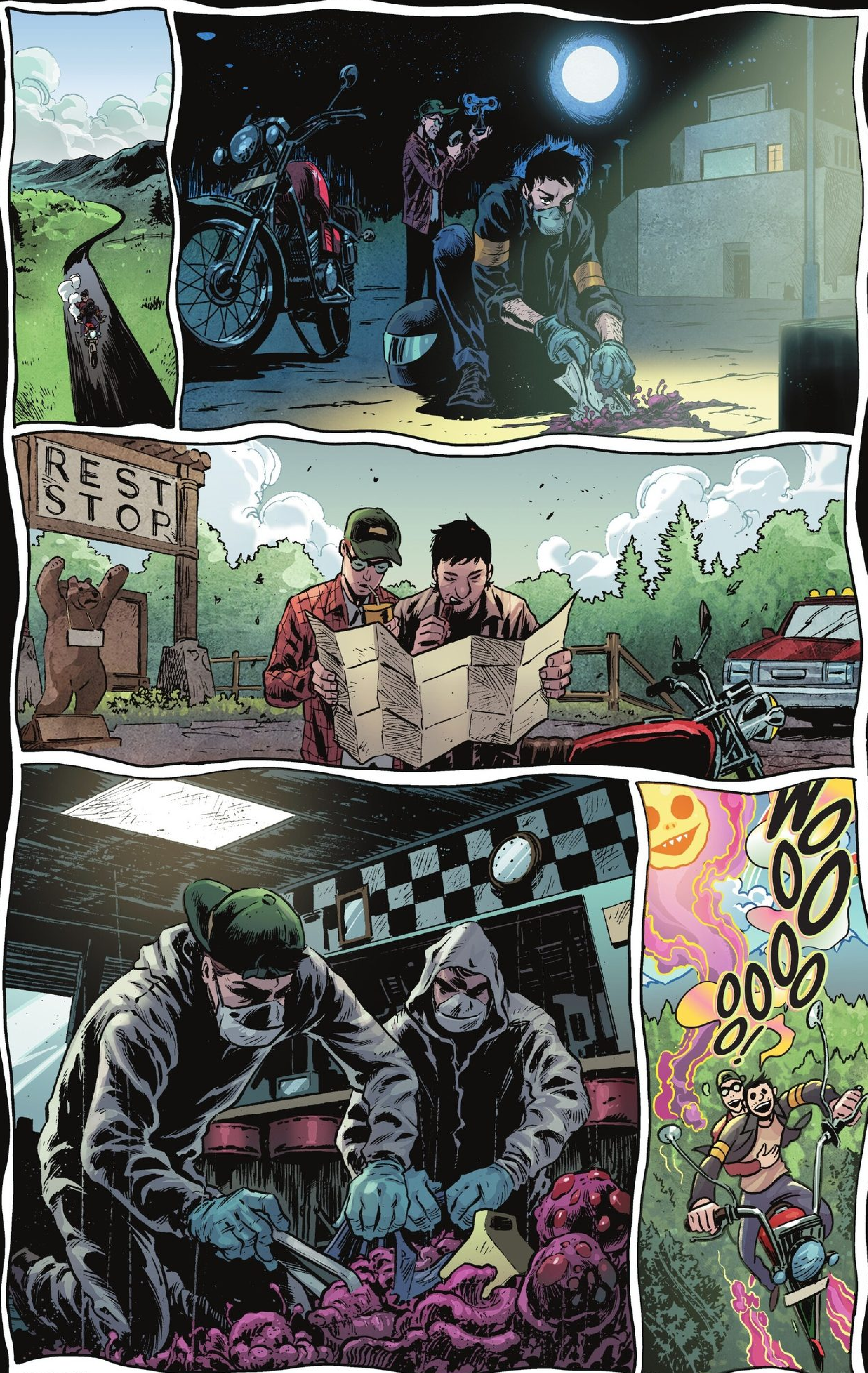

NOW LET'S SEE WHO'S UNDER THERE...
IT'S NOT REAL.
NONE OF IT IS REAL.
I CANNOT TRUST MY EYES.
BUT I KNOW HER SCENT.
I HATE THAT SCENT.

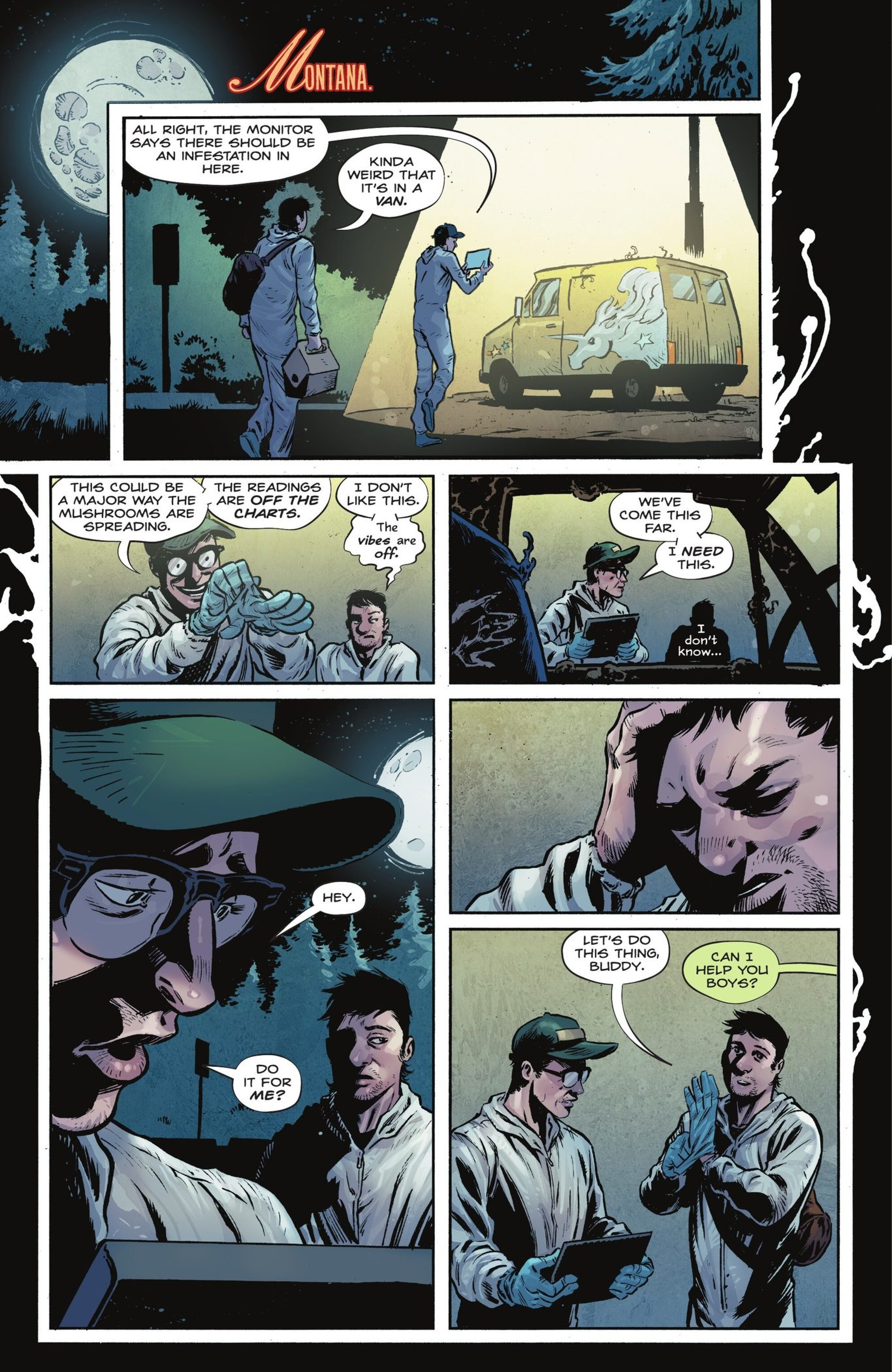

IT HAPPENS TOO FAST.
THE TASTE OF DIRT IN MY MOUTH. THE LACK OF AIR IN MY LUNGS. **THAT** IS REAL.
PAIN IS THE ONLY THING I CAN **TRUST** NOW.
MAYBE IT'S THE ONLY THING I COULD **EVER** TRUST.
MARTHA
SO I FOLLOW THE PAIN.
AND I'M **ALONE** AGAIN.
ALONE WITH THE SCENT OF ROSES AND WET EARTH.
The END.

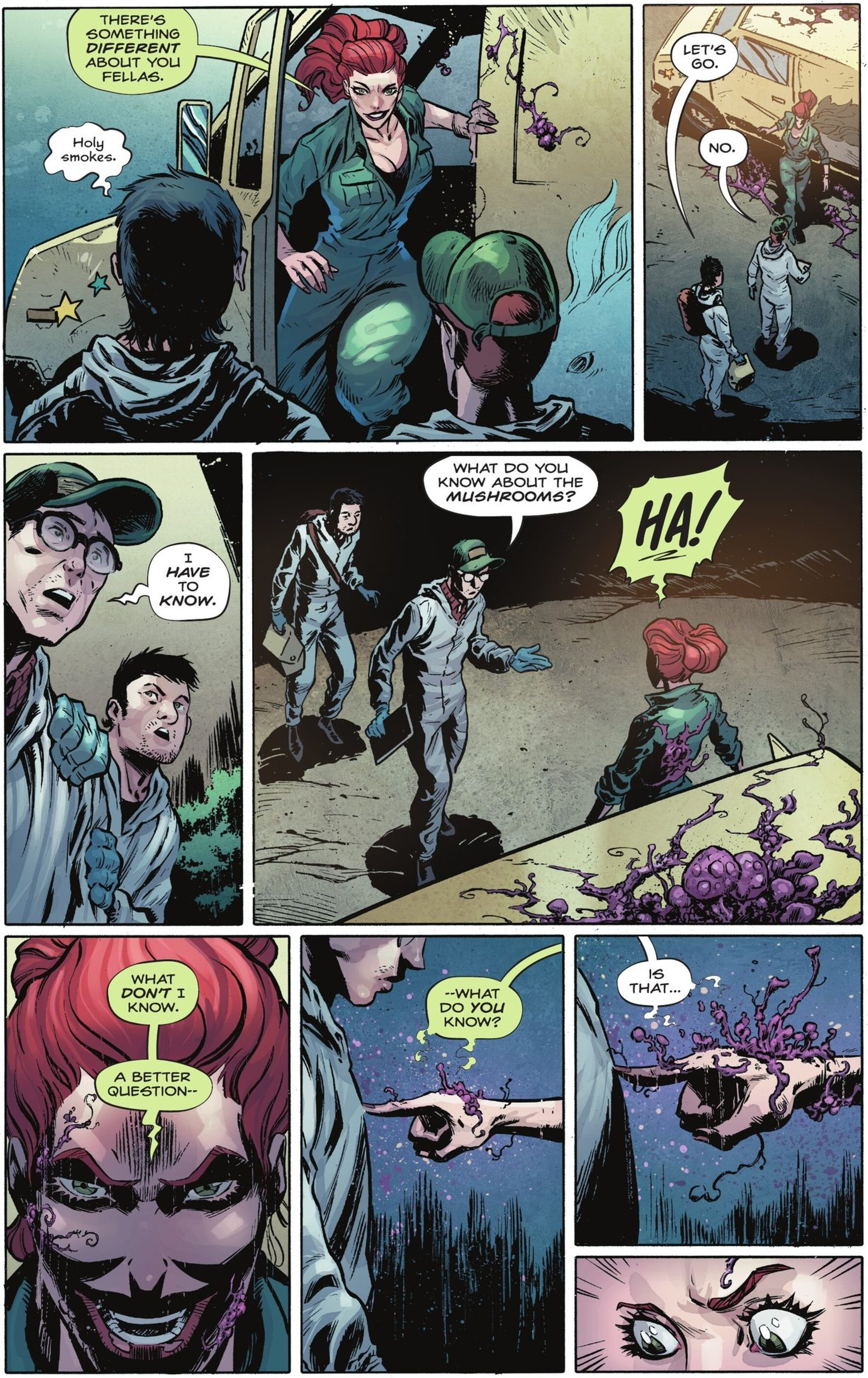

-Sigh-
Somewhere else in Wyoming.
Earlier this year.
HIYA, CUZ.
GRAN SAID YOU WERE BACK HERE.
"GO OUT AND CHECK ON MY LITTLE FLINT, THE POOR DEAR."
CODY, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WHICH, TO BE CLEAR, IS NONE--
--LEAVE ME ALONE.
CHAMOMILE?
Rough day?
I'M JUST TRYING TO UNDERSTAND.
sip
I'M SO HUNGRY. I FEEL RAVENOUS FOR KNOWLEDGE.
I WANT TO TEAR AT IT WITH MY TEETH.
I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING.
SO WHY WON'T THE SCHOOL FUND MY CLIMATE RESEARCH?
WELL, shoot, IF IT'S KNOWLEDGE YOU WANT--
--IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY.
MUSHROOMS?

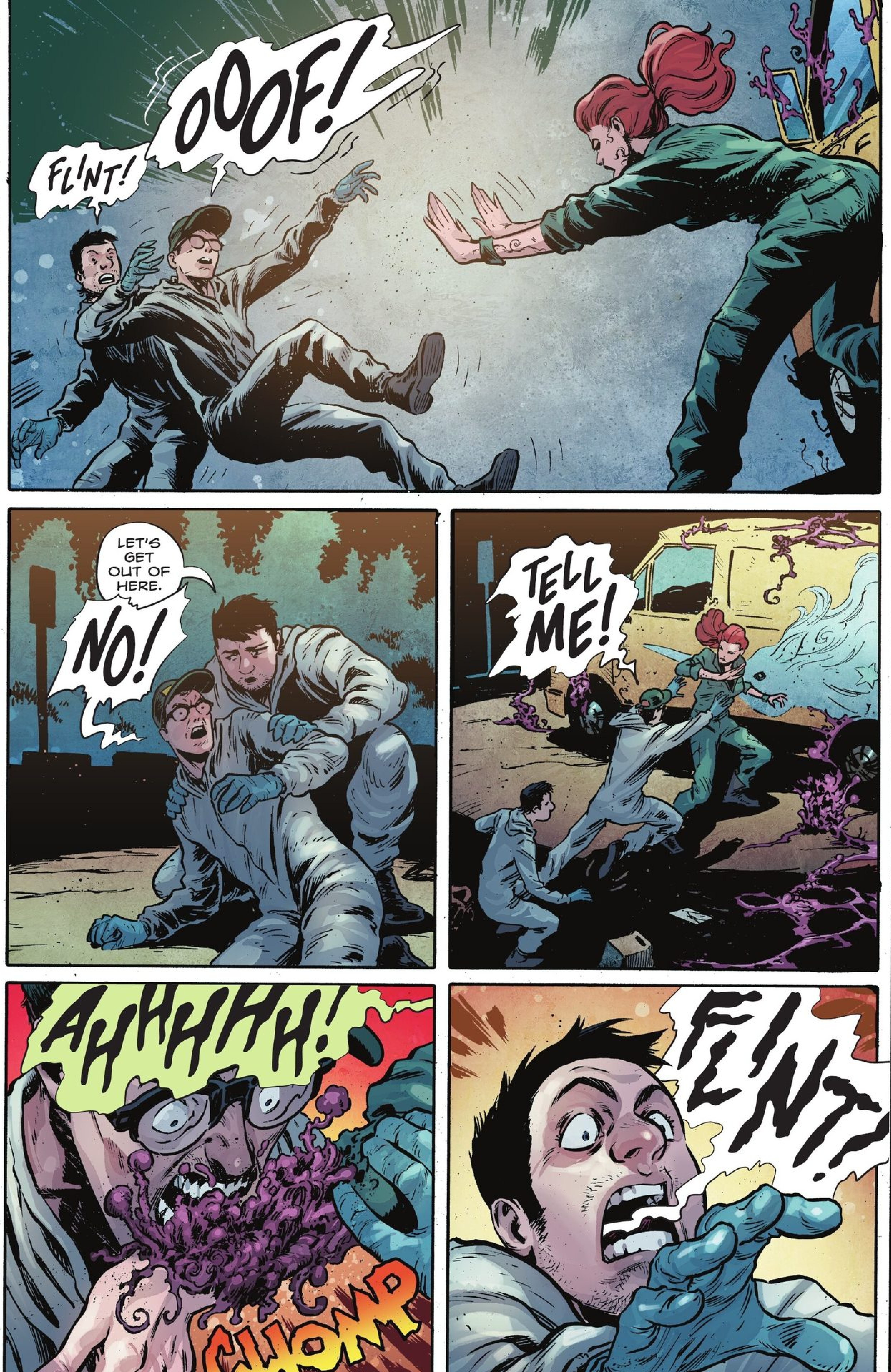

MAYBE JUST THIS--
--ONCE.
WHERE DID YOU GET THESE?!
HARVESTED THEM MYSELF THIS AFTERNOON.
RANCH A COUPLE MILES UP THE ROAD. BUNCH OF COPS.
I SNUCK IN TO HAVE A LITTLE LOOKY-LOO.
THEY WERE GROWING OUT OF A COW!
I CAN FEEL THE COW.
I CAN TASTE THE GRASS SHE TASTED.
I CAN FEEL THE SUN SHE FELT.
ISN'T IT NICE TO LIKE... CONNECT WITH SOMETHING?
I KNOW HER WHOLE LIFE STORY. I KNOW IT.
YEAH AND LIKE CONNECTING TOO, RIGHT? Instead of everyone just being pissed at you automatically because you mess up sometimes?
WE HAVE TO GET OUR HANDS ON SOME MORE OF THESE MUSHROOMS.
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO THE COW.
THE COPS WERE SETTING UP A BUNCH OF TENTS AND STUFF RIGHT AS I WAS LEAVING.

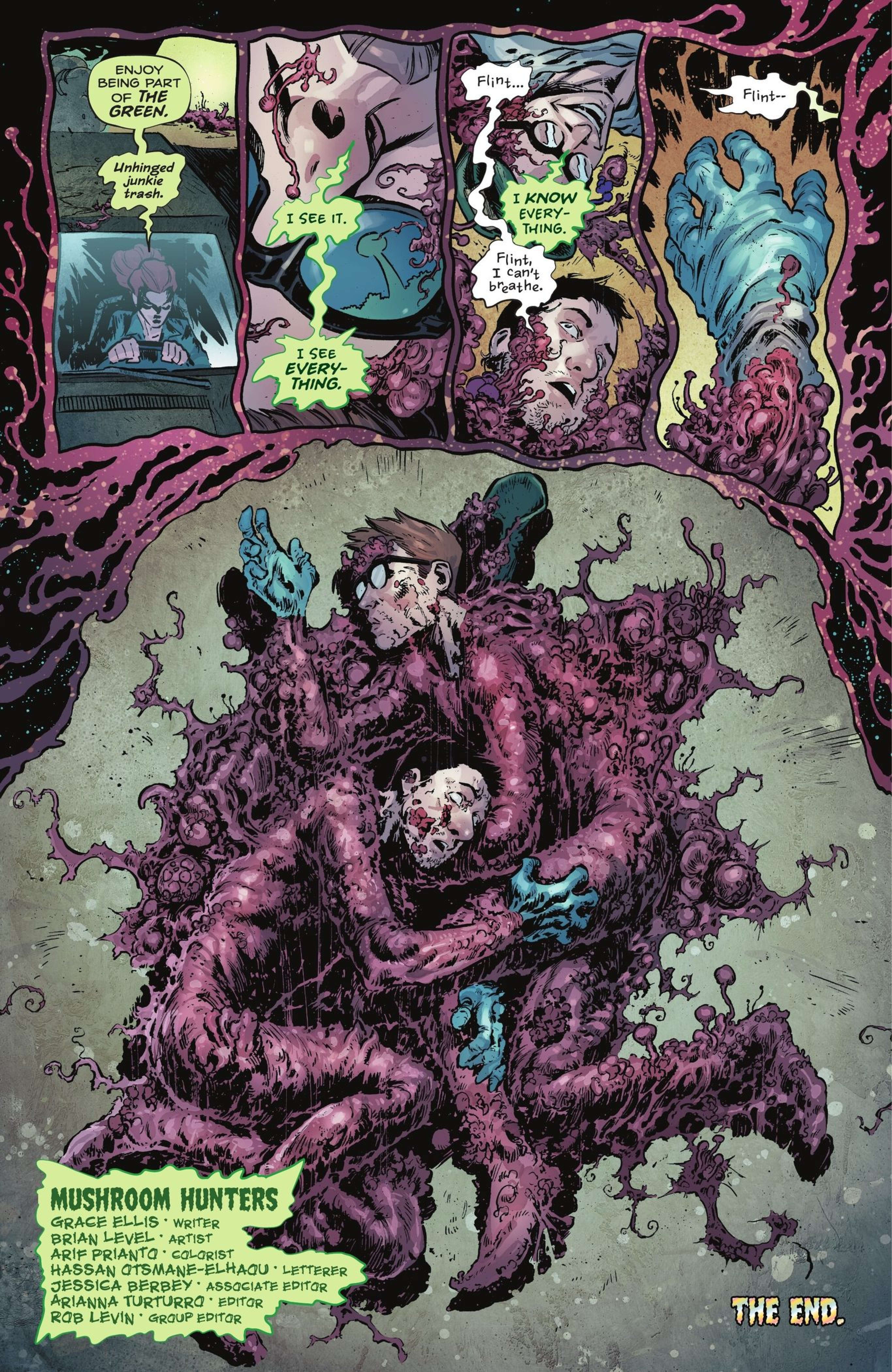

DO YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS ABOUT US BEING HIGH?
LIKE THE FBI IS TRACKING THE MUSHROOMS?
MAYBE THEY'RE READING OUR THOUGHTS RIGHT NOW?
THERE MUST BE MORE OUT THERE.
THERE WOULDN'T JUST BE ONE MUSHROOM COW AND THAT'S IT.
DON'T THINK SO LOUD! THEY'LL HEAR YOU!
BET WE COULD TRACK THEM.
LIKE THE COPS!
THANK YOU FOR SHOWING THEM TO ME.
CODY, THESE MUSHROOMS COULD BE ONE OF THE GREAT SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES OF THE CENTURY.
ARE YOU SAYING WHAT I THINK YOU'RE SAYING?
COUSIN ROAD TRIP!
FOR RESEARCH!


REST STOP
WOOOOOOOO!


MONTANA.
ALL RIGHT, THE MONITOR SAYS THERE SHOULD BE AN INFESTATION IN HERE.
KINDA WEIRD THAT IT'S IN A VAN.
THIS COULD BE A MAJOR WAY THE MUSHROOMS ARE SPREADING.
THE READINGS ARE OFF THE CHARTS.
I DON'T LIKE THIS.
The vibes are off.
WE'VE COME THIS FAR.
I NEED THIS.
I don't know...
HEY.
DO IT FOR ME?
LET'S DO THIS THING, BUDDY.
CAN I HELP YOU BOYS?


THERE'S SOMETHING *DIFFERENT* ABOUT YOU FELLAS.
Holy smokes.
LET'S GO.
NO.
I *HAVE* TO *KNOW*.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE *MUSHROOMS*?
HA!
WHAT *DON'T* I KNOW.
A BETTER QUESTION--
--WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW?
IS THAT...


FLINT!
OOOF!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
NO!
TELL ME!
AHHHHH!
CHOMP
FLINT?


ENJOY BEING PART OF **THE GREEN.**
*Unhinged junkie trash.*
I SEE IT.
I SEE **EVERYTHING.**
Flint...
I **KNOW** EVERYTHING.
Flint, I can't breathe.
Flint--
THE END.

**MUSHROOM HUNTERS**
GRACE ELLIS • WRITER
BRIAN LEVEL • ARTIST
ARIF PRIANTO • COLORIST
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU • LETTERER
JESSICA BERBEY • ASSOCIATE EDITOR
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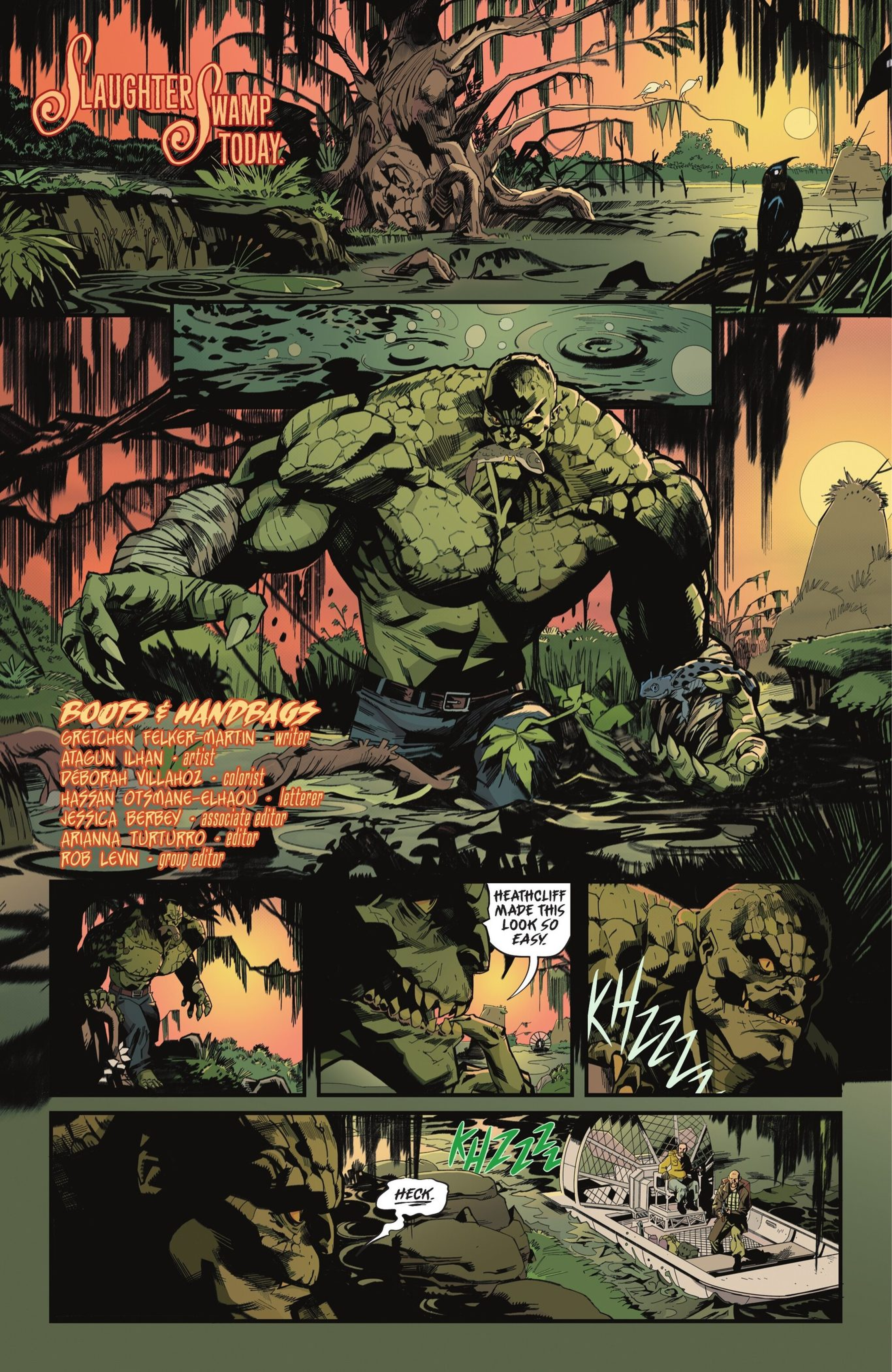
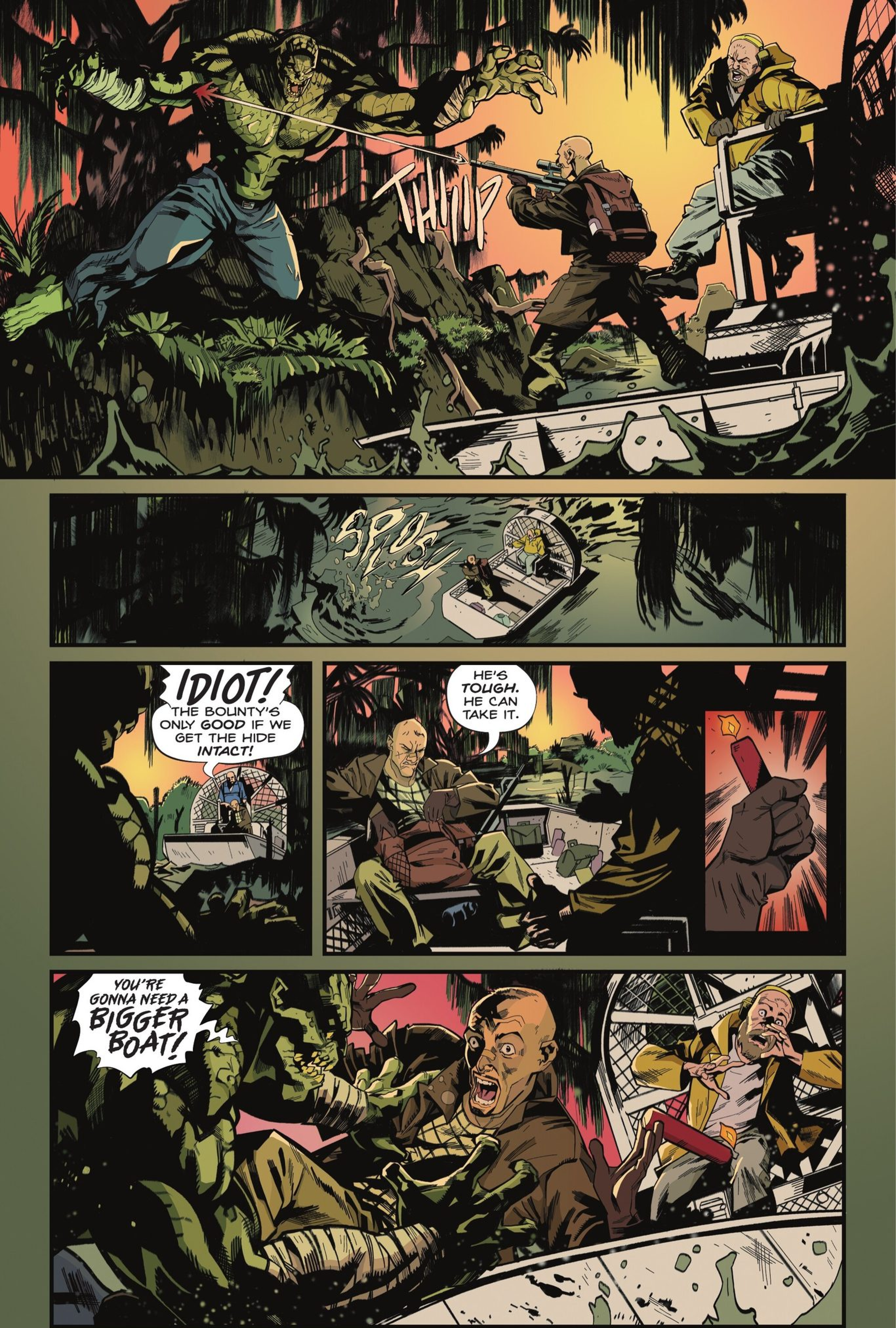
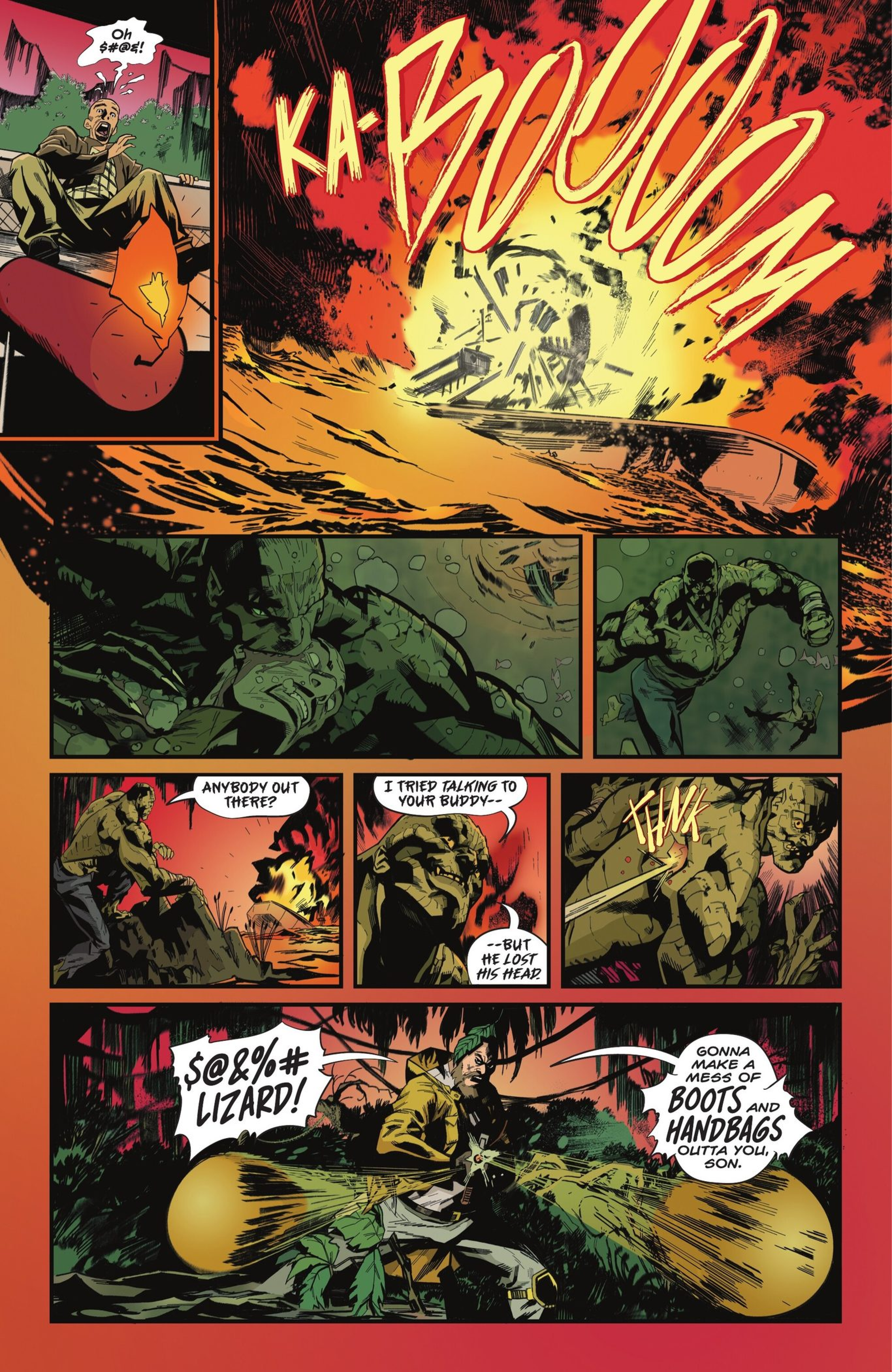
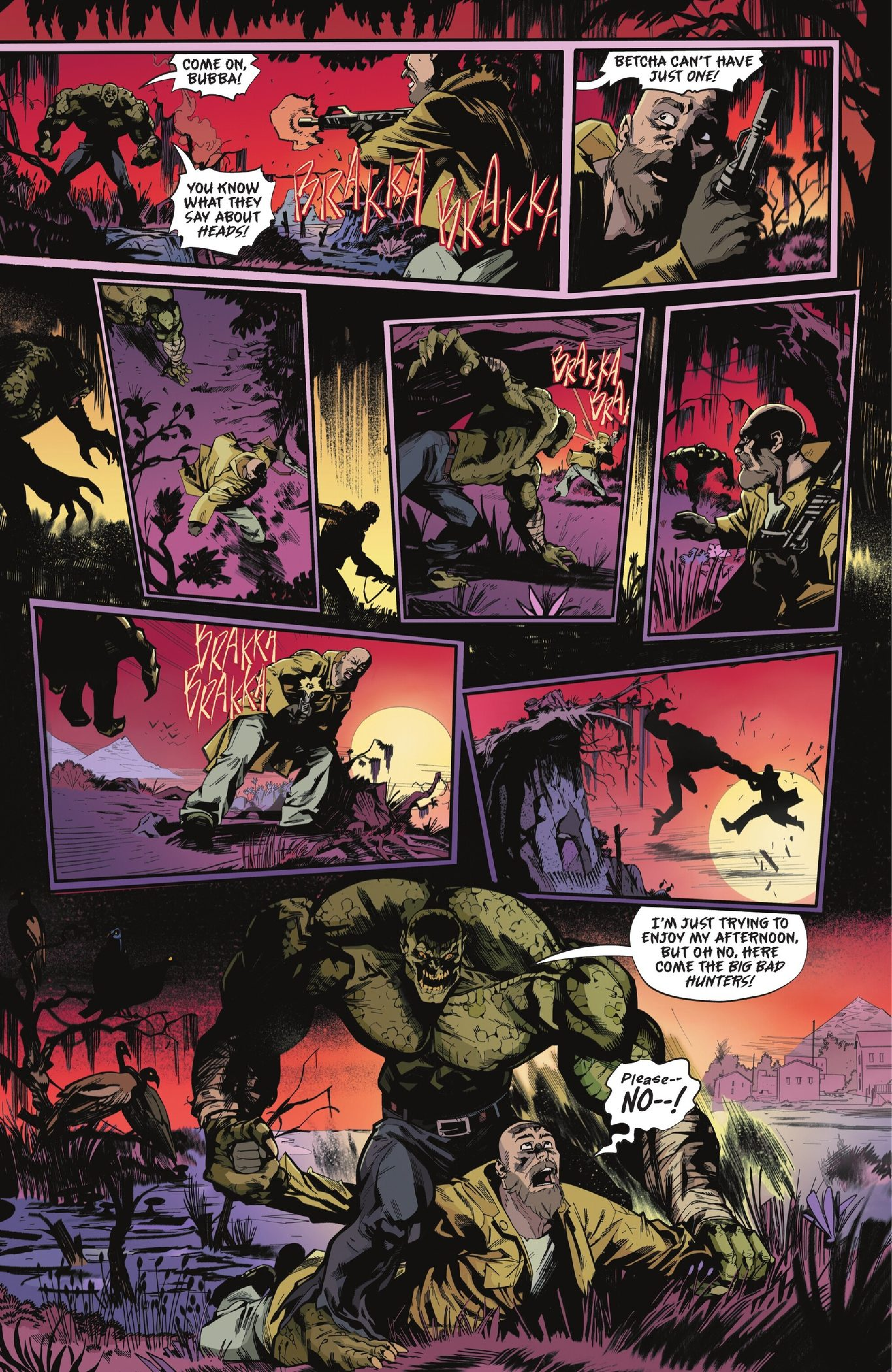
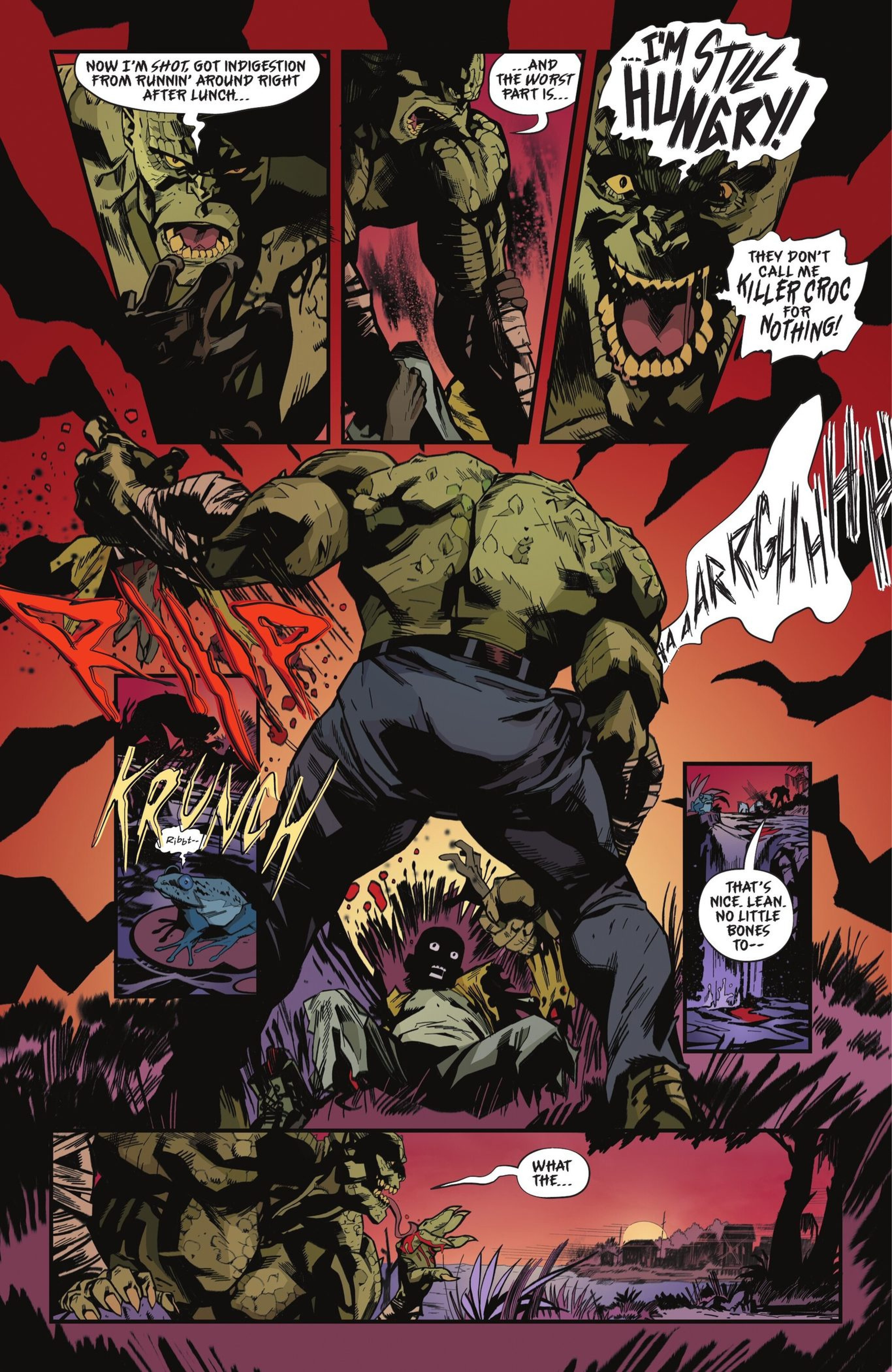
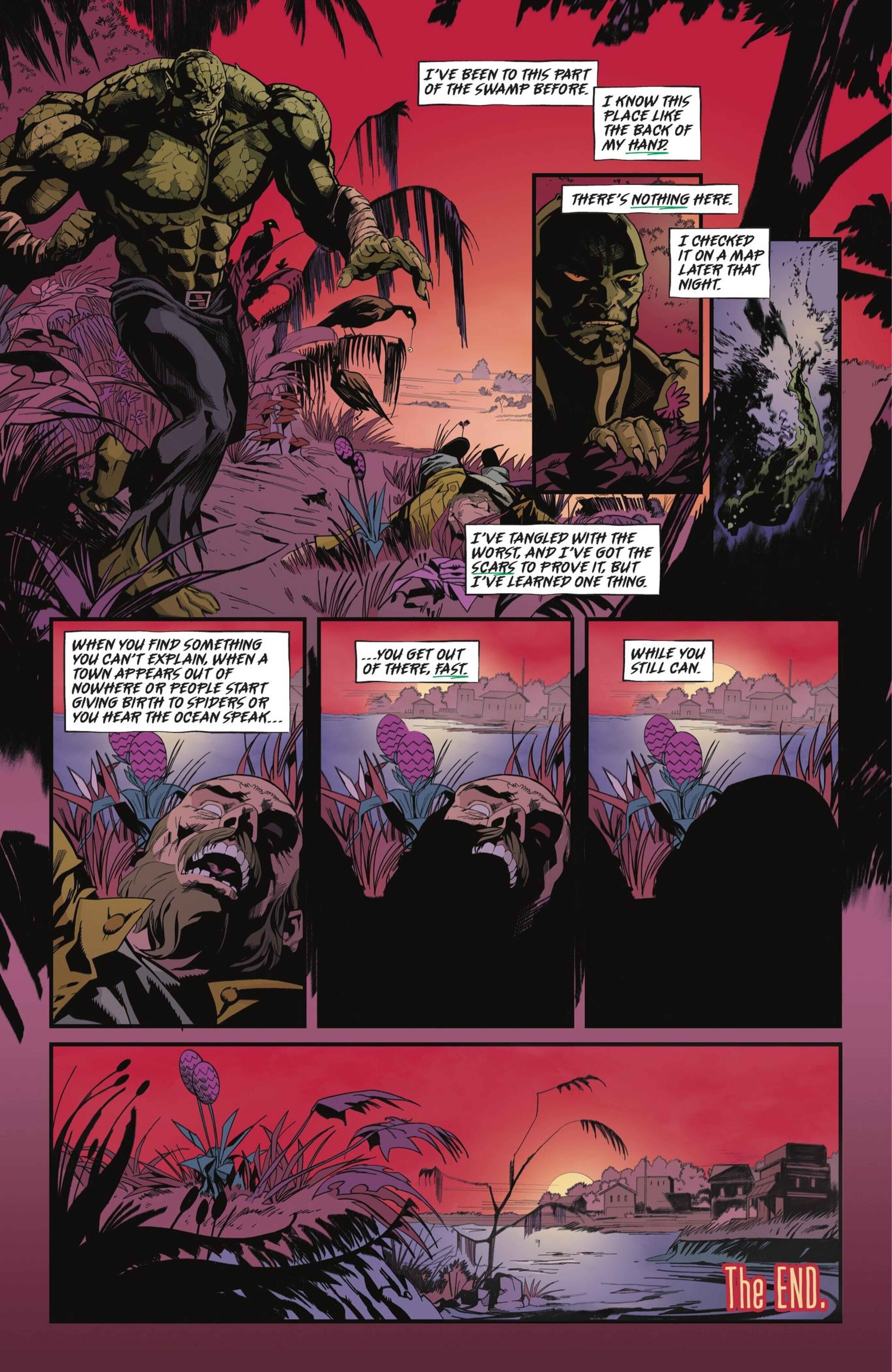

Slaughter Swamp. Today.
BOOTS & HANDBAGS
GRETCHEN FELKER-MARTIN • writer
ATAGUN ILHAN • artist
DEBORAH VILLAHOZ • colorist
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU • letterer
JESSICA BERBEY • associate editor
ARIANNA TURTURRO • editor
ROB LEVIN • group editor
HEATHCLIFF MADE THIS LOOK SO EASY.
KHZZZZ
KHZZZZ
HECK.

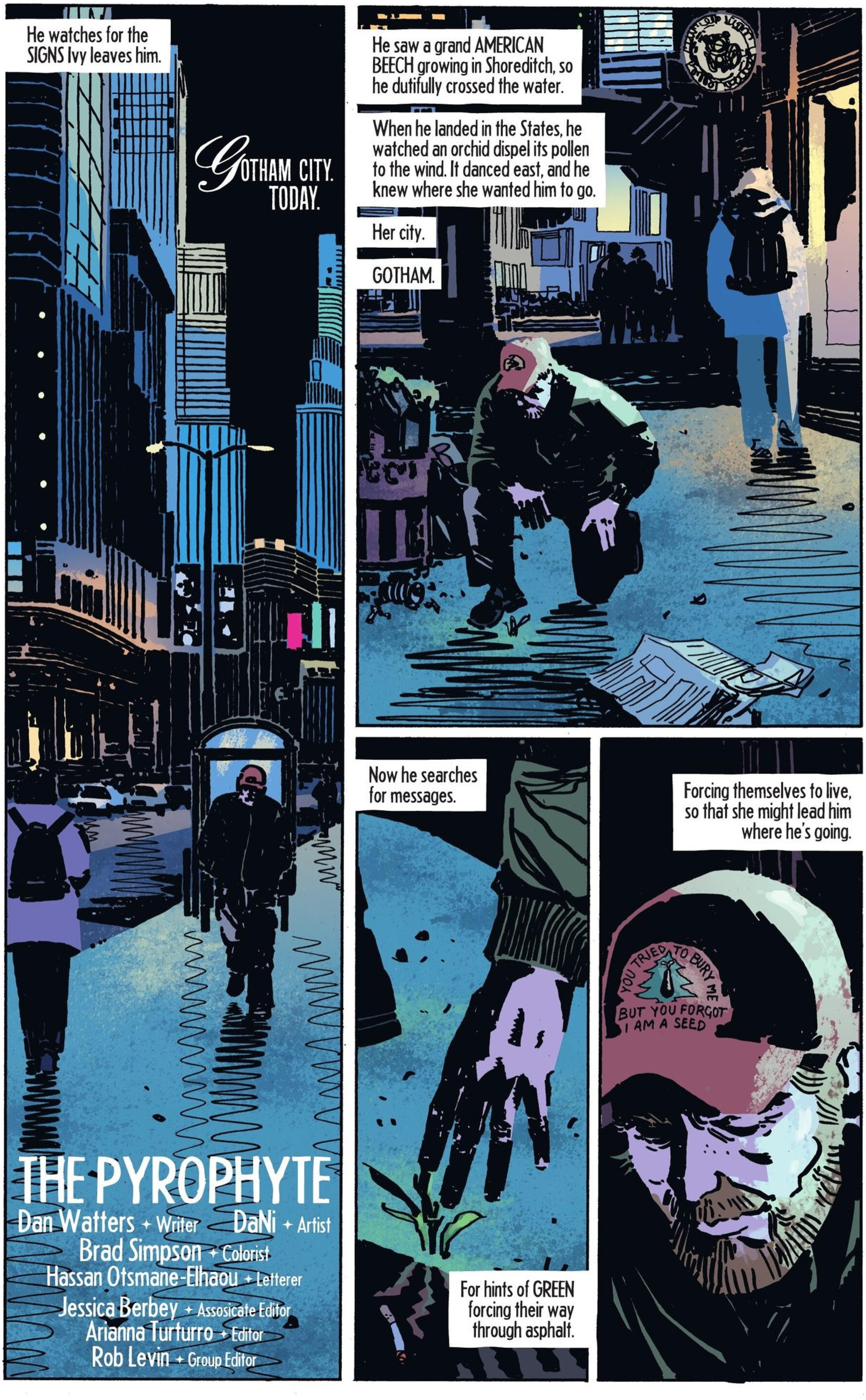

THUUP
SPLOSH
IDIOT! THE BOUNTY'S ONLY GOOD IF WE GET THE HIDE INTACT!
HE'S TOUGH. HE CAN TAKE IT.
YOU'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER BOAT!


Oh $#@&!
KA-BOOOM
ANYBODY OUT THERE?
I TRIED TALKING TO YOUR BUDDY--
--BUT HE LOST HIS HEAD.
THNK
$@&%# LIZARD!
GONNA MAKE A MESS OF BOOTS AND HANDBAGS OUTTA YOU, SON.


COME ON, BUBBA!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT *HEADS!*
BRAKKA BRAKKA
BETCHA CAN'T HAVE JUST ONE!
BRAKKA BRAK
BRAKKA BRAKKA
I'M JUST TRYING TO ENJOY MY AFTERNOON, BUT OH NO, HERE COME THE BIG BAD HUNTERS!
Please-- NO--!

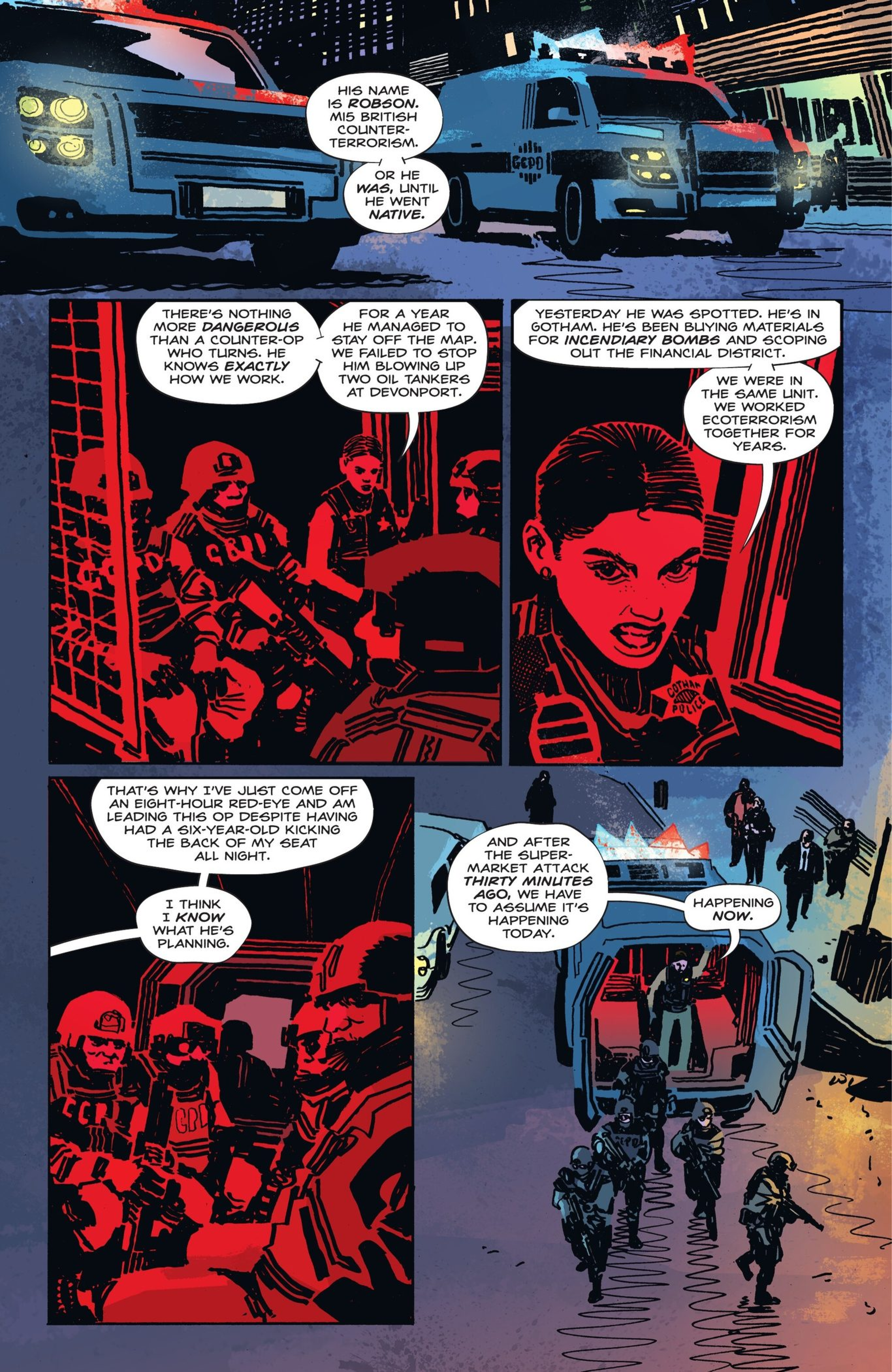

NOW I'M *SHOT*, GOT INDIGESTION FROM RUNNIN' AROUND RIGHT AFTER LUNCH...
...AND THE *WORST* PART IS...
...I'M STILL HUNGRY!
THEY DON'T CALL ME KILLER CROC FOR NOTHING!
HAAARRGHHHHH
RIIIP
KRUNCH
Ribbt--
THAT'S NICE. LEAN. NO LITTLE BONES TO--
WHAT THE...

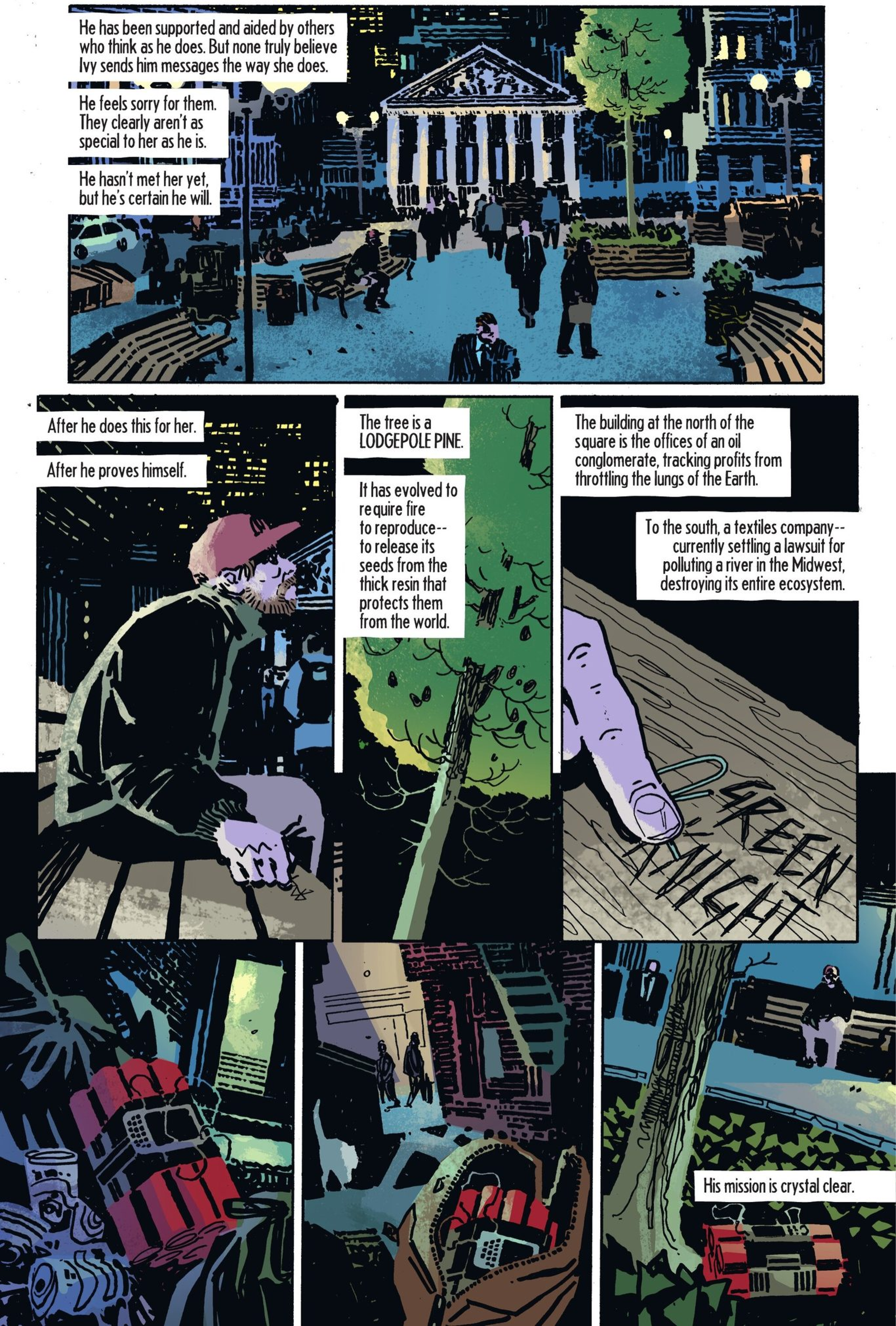

I'VE BEEN TO THIS PART OF THE SWAMP BEFORE.
I KNOW THIS PLACE LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
I CHECKED IT ON A MAP LATER THAT NIGHT.
I'VE TANGLED WITH THE WORST, AND I'VE GOT THE SCARS TO PROVE IT, BUT I'VE LEARNED ONE THING.
WHEN YOU FIND SOMETHING YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN, WHEN A TOWN APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE OR PEOPLE START GIVING BIRTH TO SPIDERS OR YOU HEAR THE OCEAN SPEAK...
...YOU GET OUT OF THERE, FAST.
WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
The END.

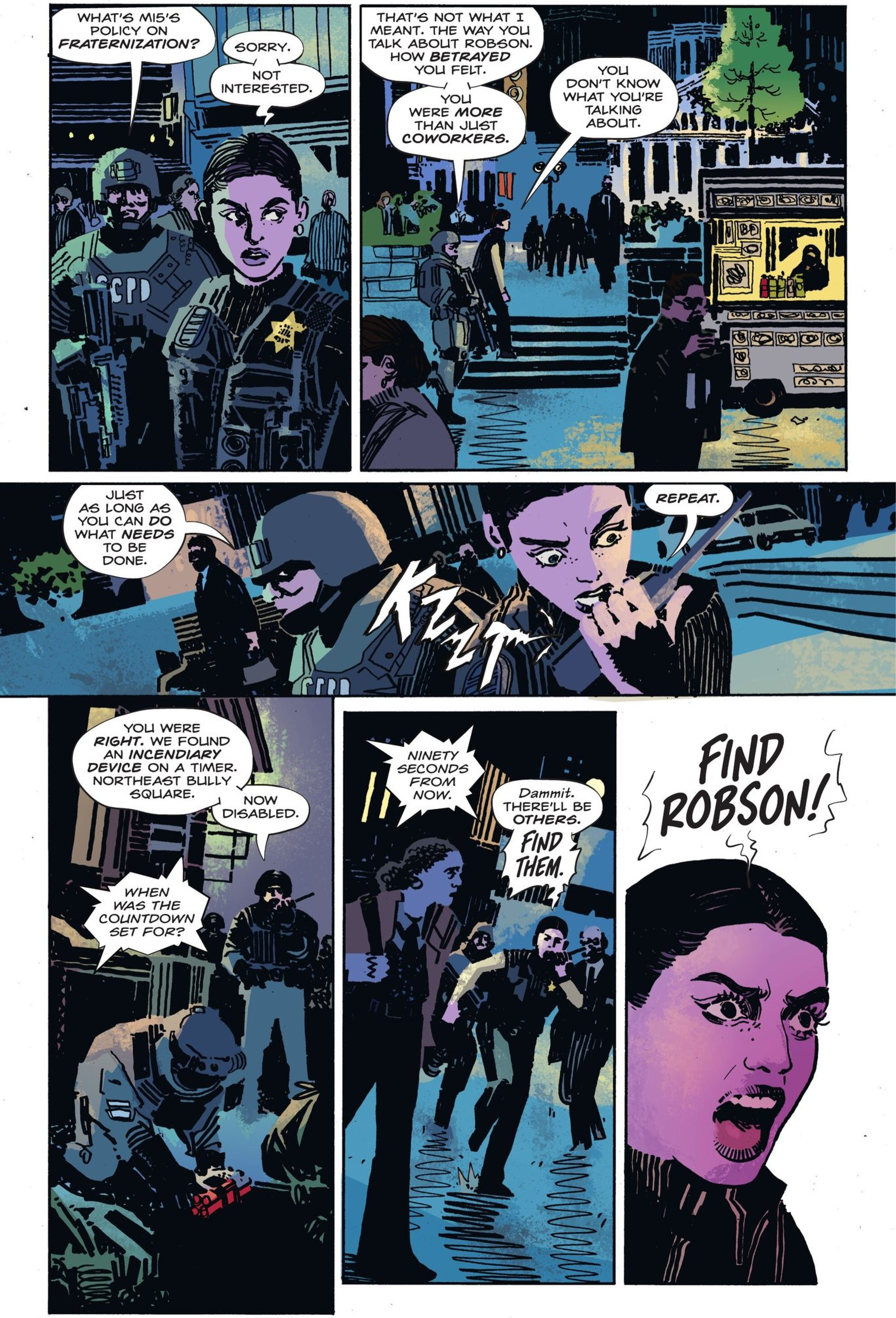

He watches for the SIGNS Ivy leaves him.
GOTHAM CITY. TODAY.
He saw a grand AMERICAN BEECH growing in Shoreditch, so he dutifully crossed the water.
When he landed in the States, he watched an orchid dispel its pollen to the wind. It danced east, and he knew where she wanted him to go.
Her city.
GOTHAM.
Now he searches for messages.
For hints of GREEN forcing their way through asphalt.
Forcing themselves to live, so that she might lead him where he's going.
YOU TRIED TO BURY ME BUT YOU FORGOT I AM A SEED

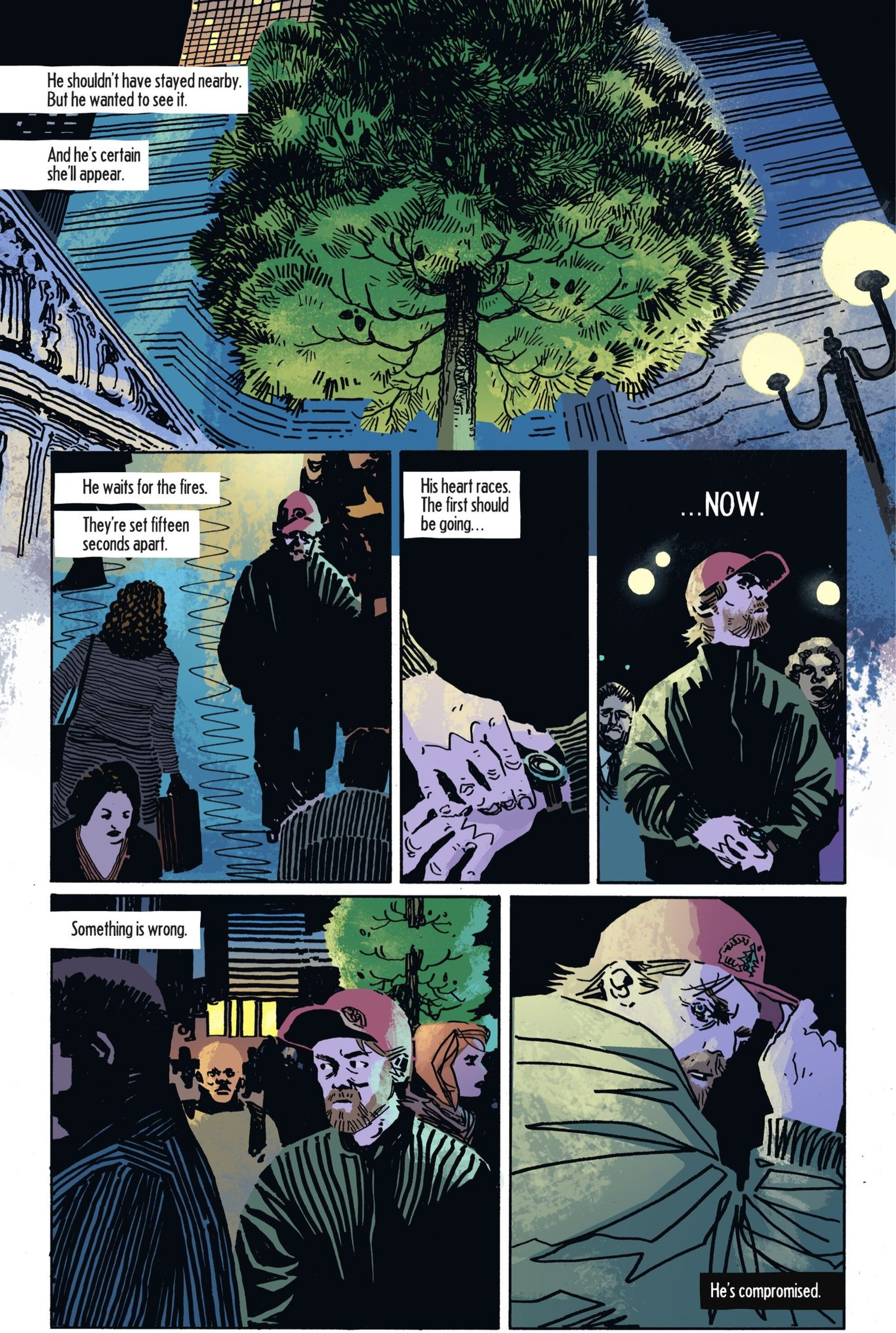
# THE PYROPHYTE

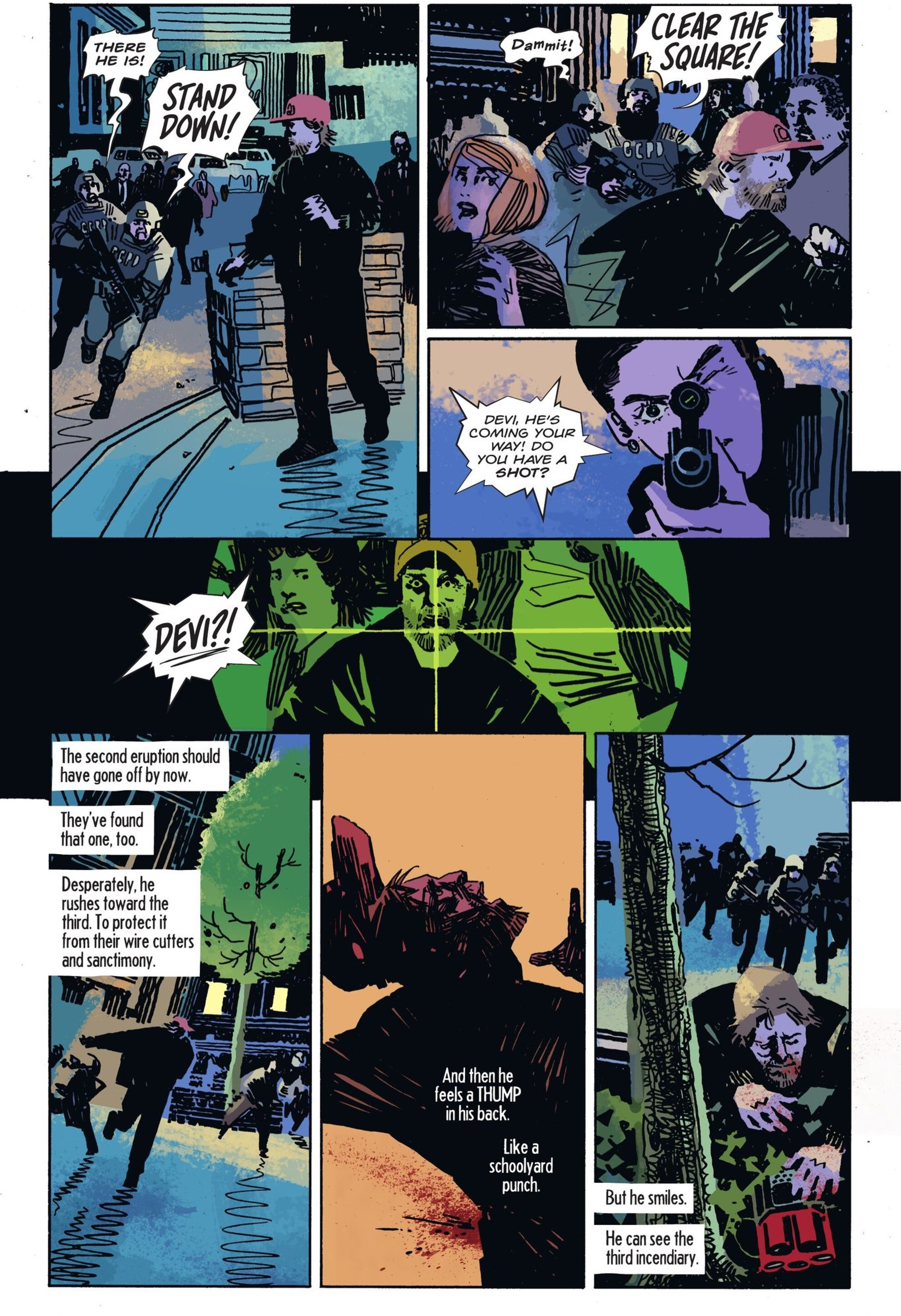
Dan Watters ✦ Writer DaNi ✦ Artist
Brad Simpson ✦ Colorist
Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou ✦ Letterer
Jessica Berbey ✦ Assosicate Editor
Arianna Turturro ✦ Editor
Rob Levin ✦ Group Editor

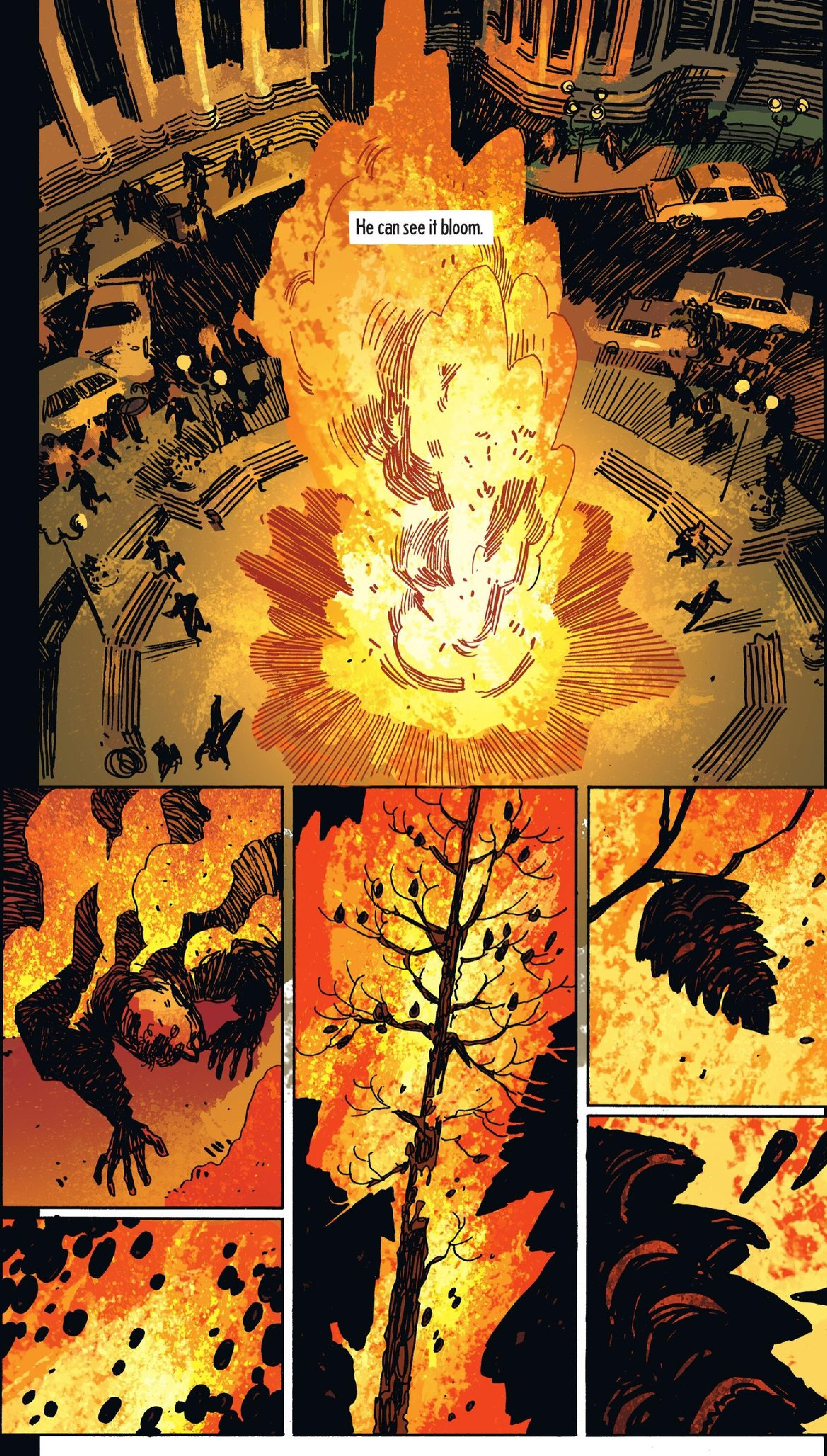

HIS NAME IS ROBSON. MI5 BRITISH COUNTER-TERRORISM.
OR HE WAS, UNTIL HE WENT NATIVE.
GCPD
THERE'S NOTHING MORE DANGEROUS THAN A COUNTER-OP WHO TURNS. HE KNOWS EXACTLY HOW WE WORK.
FOR A YEAR HE MANAGED TO STAY OFF THE MAP. WE FAILED TO STOP HIM BLOWING UP TWO OIL TANKERS AT DEVONPORT.
GCPD
YESTERDAY HE WAS SPOTTED. HE'S IN GOTHAM. HE'S BEEN BUYING MATERIALS FOR INCENDIARY BOMBS AND SCOPING OUT THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT.
WE WERE IN THE SAME UNIT. WE WORKED ECOTERRORISM TOGETHER FOR YEARS.
GOTHAM POLICE
THAT'S WHY I'VE JUST COME OFF AN EIGHT-HOUR RED-EYE AND AM LEADING THIS OP DESPITE HAVING HAD A SIX-YEAR-OLD KICKING THE BACK OF MY SEAT ALL NIGHT.
I THINK I KNOW WHAT HE'S PLANNING.
GCPD
GPD
AND AFTER THE SUPER-MARKET ATTACK THIRTY MINUTES AGO, WE HAVE TO ASSUME IT'S HAPPENING TODAY.
HAPPENING NOW.
GCPD

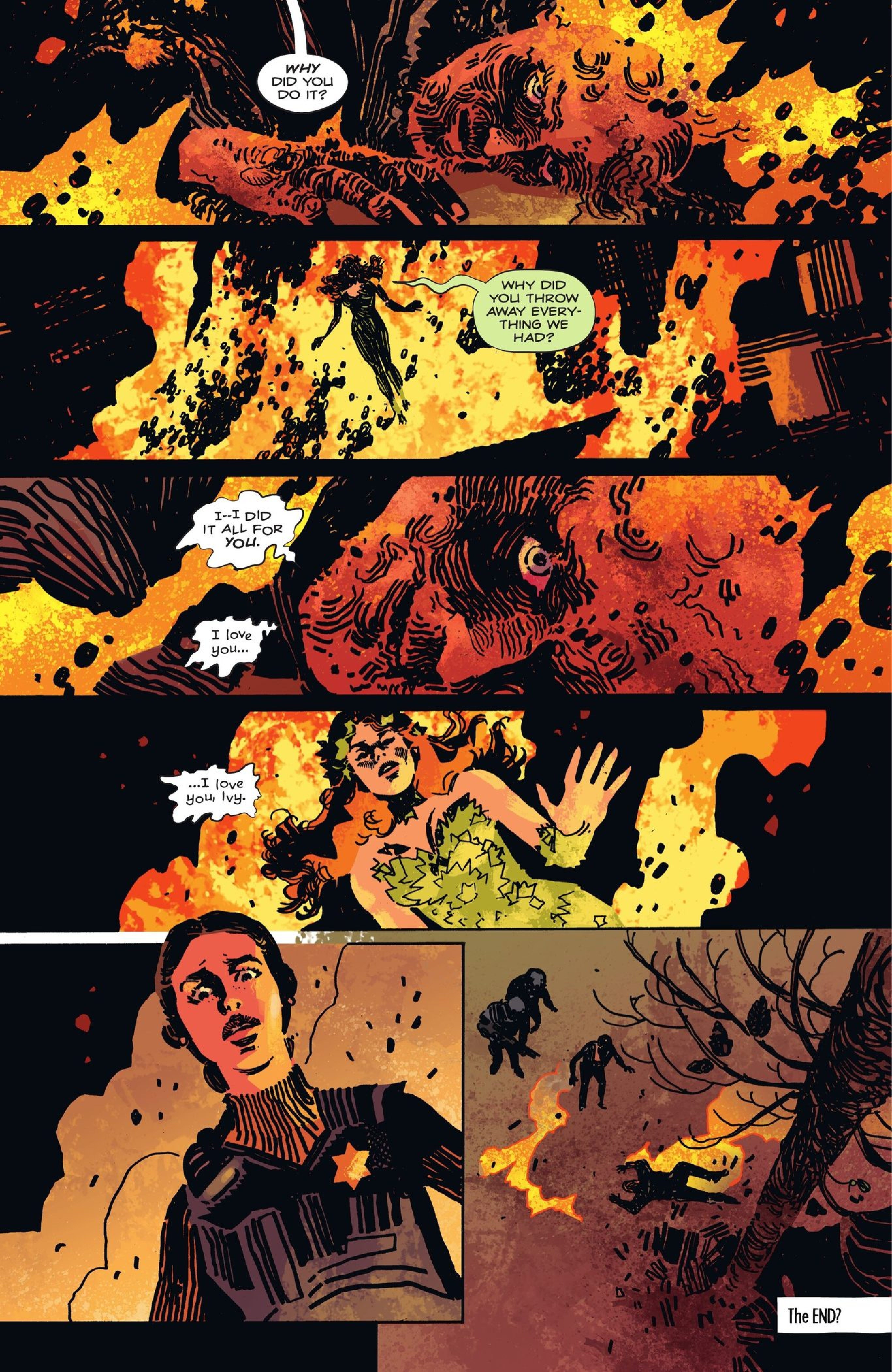

He has been supported and aided by others who think as he does. But none truly believe Ivy sends him messages the way she does.
He feels sorry for them. They clearly aren't as special to her as he is.
He hasn't met her yet, but he's certain he will.
After he does this for her.
After he proves himself.
The tree is a LODGEPOLE PINE.
It has evolved to require fire to reproduce-- to release its seeds from the thick resin that protects them from the world.
The building at the north of the square is the offices of an oil conglomerate, tracking profits from throttling the lungs of the Earth.
To the south, a textiles company-- currently settling a lawsuit for polluting a river in the Midwest, destroying its entire ecosystem.
GREEN KNIGHT
His mission is crystal clear.

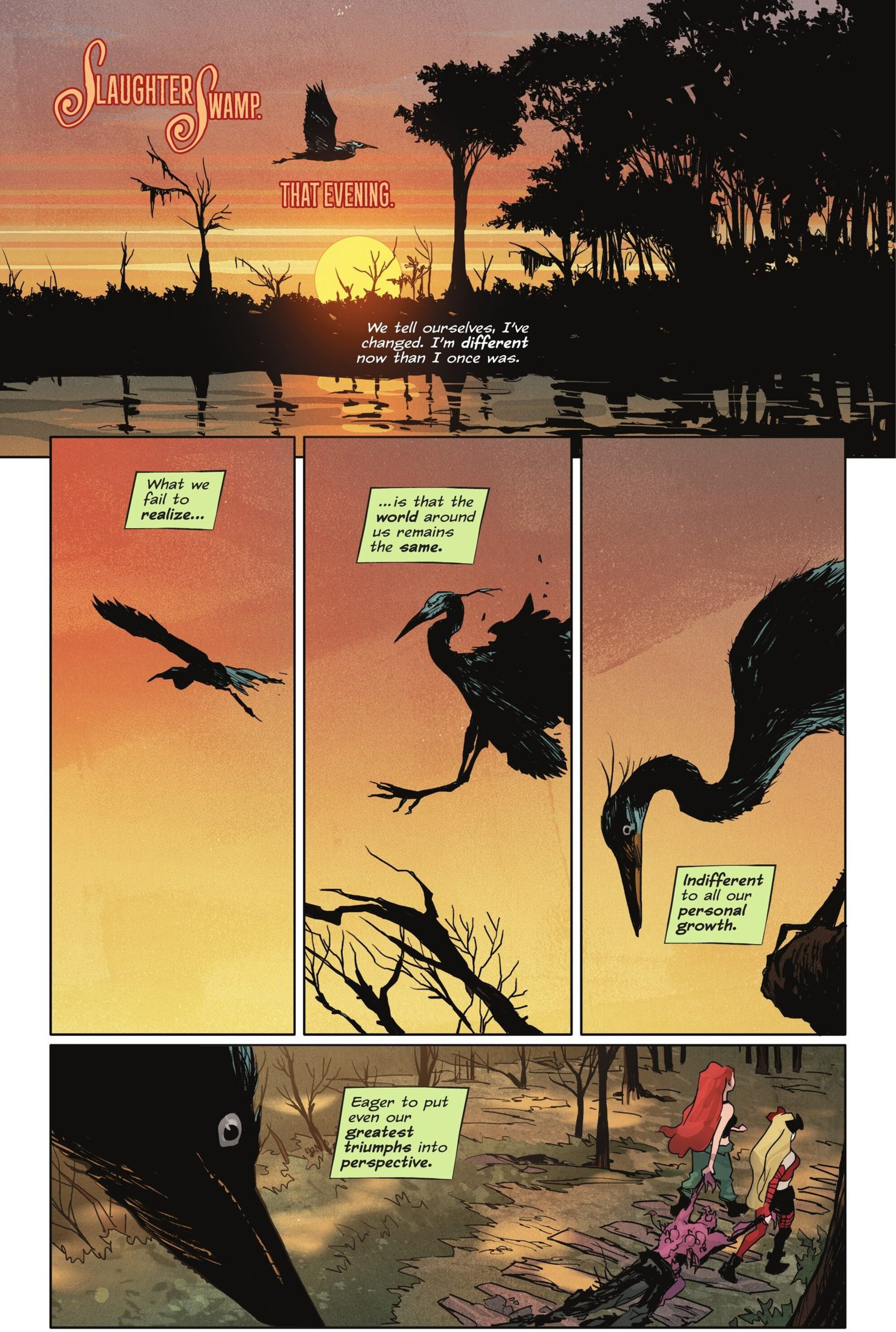

WHAT'S MI5'S POLICY ON *FRATERNIZATION?*
SORRY.
NOT INTERESTED.
SCPD
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. THE WAY YOU TALK ABOUT ROBSON. HOW *BETRAYED* YOU FELT.
YOU WERE *MORE* THAN JUST *COWORKERS.*
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
JUST AS LONG AS YOU CAN *DO* WHAT *NEEDS* TO BE DONE.
KZZT
*REPEAT.*
SCPD
YOU WERE *RIGHT.* WE FOUND AN *INCENDIARY DEVICE* ON A TIMER. NORTHEAST BULLY SQUARE.
NOW DISABLED.
WHEN WAS THE COUNTDOWN SET FOR?
NINETY SECONDS FROM NOW.
Dammit. THERE'LL BE *OTHERS.*
FIND THEM.
FIND ROBSON!

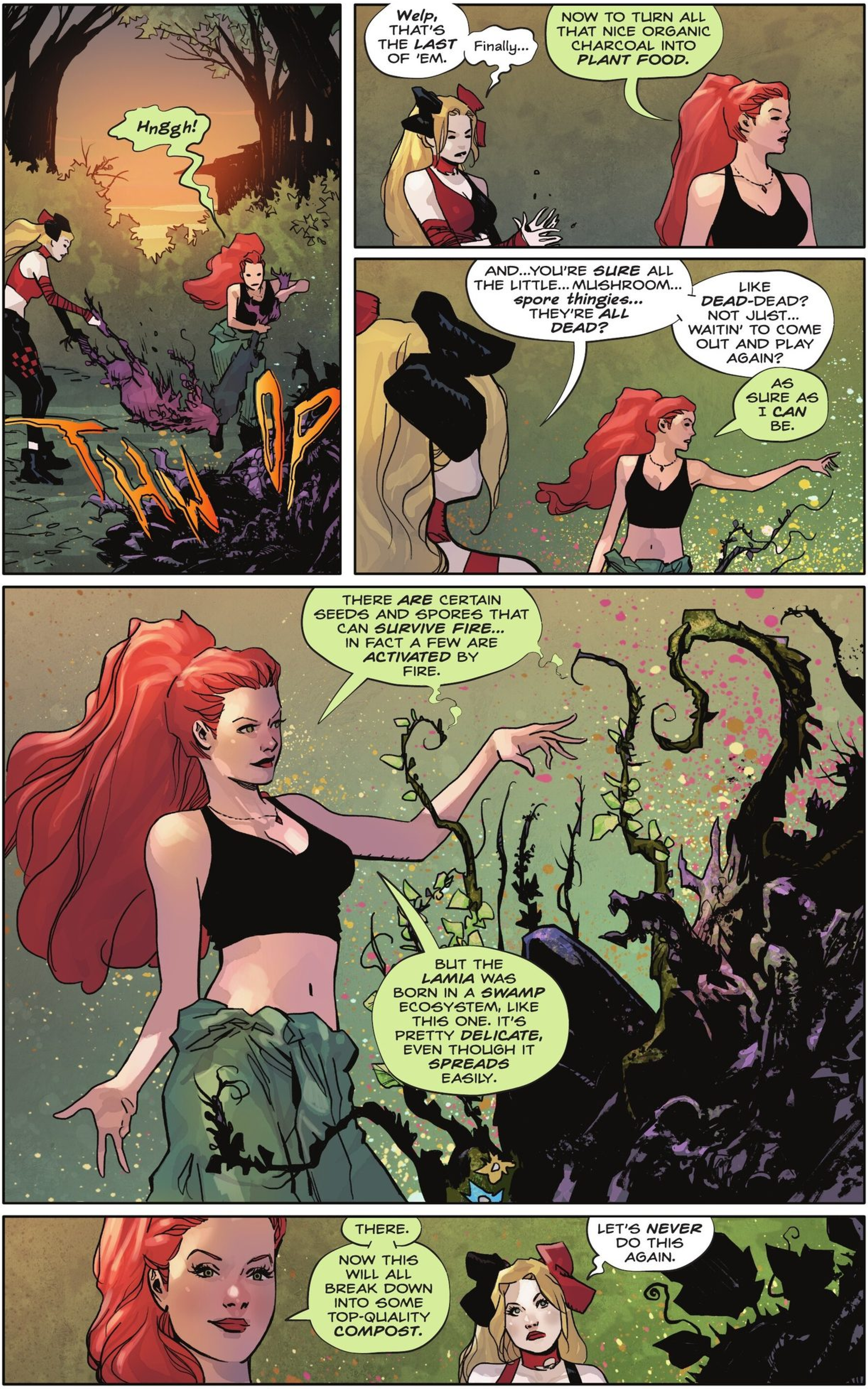

He shouldn't have stayed nearby. But he wanted to see it.
And he's certain she'll appear.
He waits for the fires.
They're set fifteen seconds apart.
His heart races. The first should be going…
…NOW.
Something is wrong.
He's compromised.

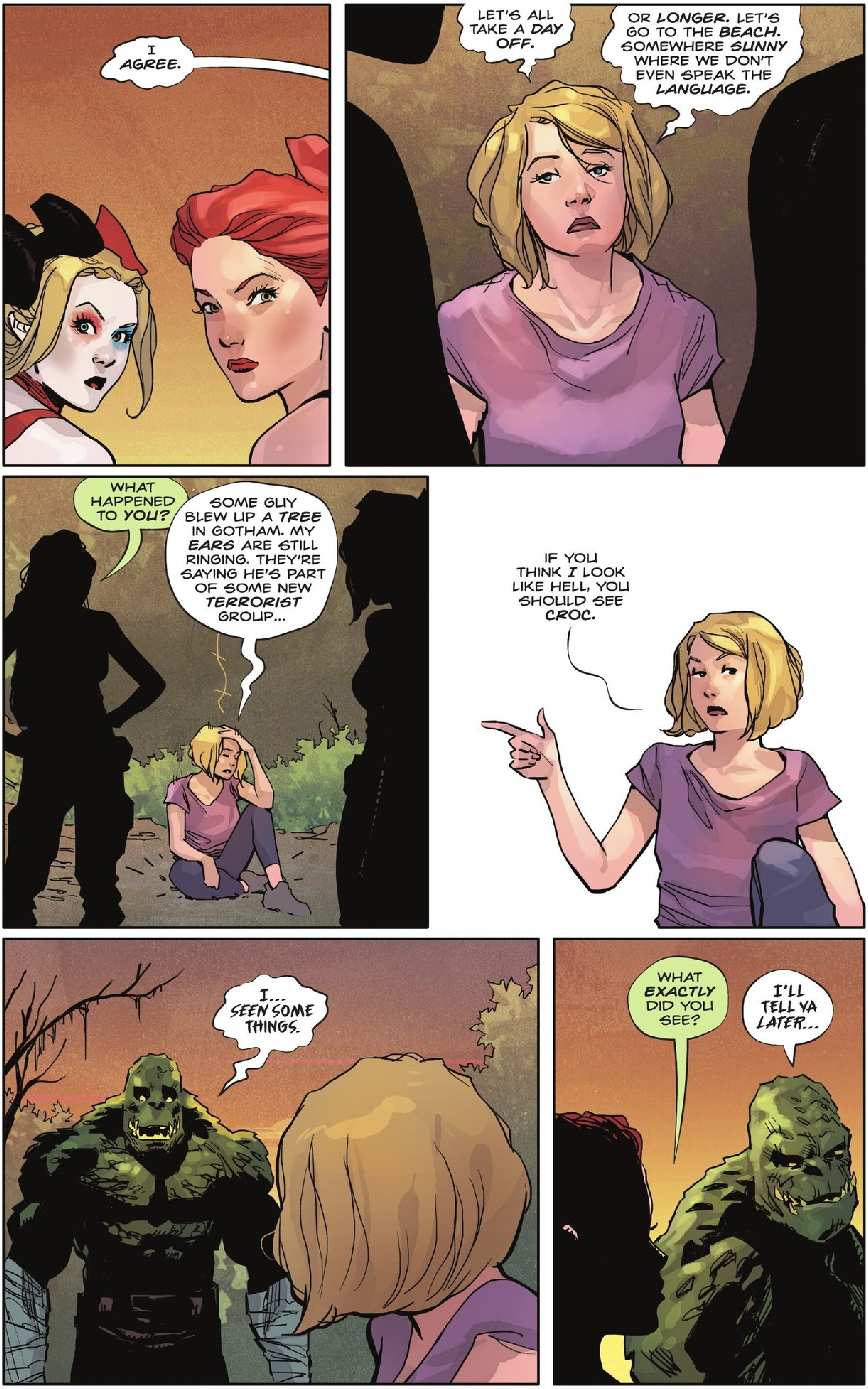

THERE HE IS!
STAND DOWN!
Dammit!
CLEAR THE SQUARE!
DEVI, HE'S COMING YOUR WAY! DO YOU HAVE A SHOT?
DEVI?!
The second eruption should have gone off by now.
They've found that one, too.
Desperately, he rushes toward the third. To protect it from their wire cutters and sanctimony.
And then he feels a THUMP in his back.
Like a schoolyard punch.
But he smiles.
He can see the third incendiary.

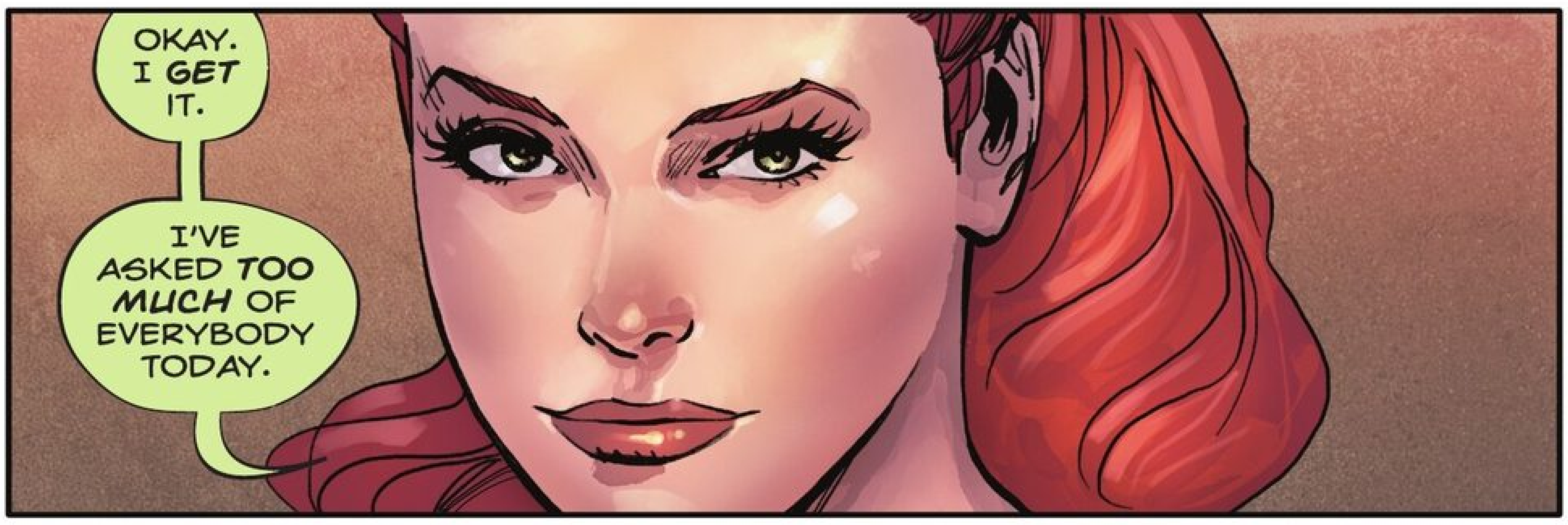

He can see it bloom.

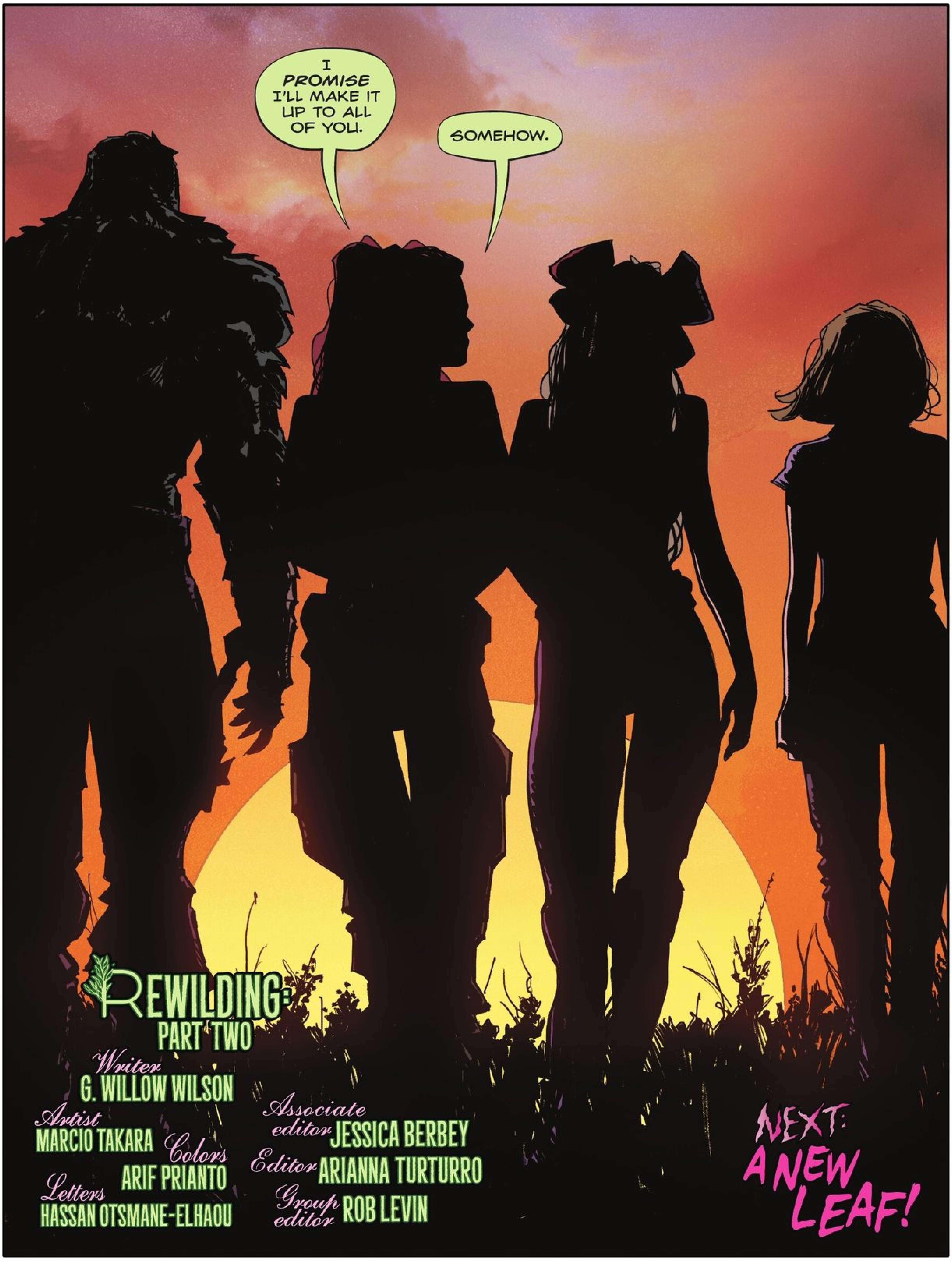

WHY DID YOU DO IT?
WHY DID YOU THROW AWAY EVERYTHING WE HAD?
I--I DID IT ALL FOR YOU.
I love you...
...I love you, Ivy.
The END?


Slaughter Swamp.
THAT EVENING.
We tell ourselves, I've changed. I'm **different** now than I once was.
What we fail to **realize...**
...is that the **world** around us remains the **same.**
**Indifferent** to all our **personal growth.**
Eager to put even our ***greatest triumphs*** into ***perspective.***


Hnggh!
THWOP
Welp, THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM.
Finally...
NOW TO TURN ALL THAT NICE ORGANIC CHARCOAL INTO PLANT FOOD.
AND...YOU'RE SURE ALL THE LITTLE...MUSHROOM... spore thingies... THEY'RE ALL DEAD?
LIKE DEAD-DEAD? NOT JUST... WAITIN' TO COME OUT AND PLAY AGAIN?
AS SURE AS I CAN BE.
THERE ARE CERTAIN SEEDS AND SPORES THAT CAN SURVIVE FIRE... IN FACT A FEW ARE ACTIVATED BY FIRE.
BUT THE LAMIA WAS BORN IN A SWAMP ECOSYSTEM, LIKE THIS ONE. IT'S PRETTY DELICATE, EVEN THOUGH IT SPREADS EASILY.
THERE.
NOW THIS WILL ALL BREAK DOWN INTO SOME TOP-QUALITY COMPOST.
LET'S NEVER DO THIS AGAIN.


I AGREE.
LET'S ALL TAKE A DAY OFF.
OR LONGER. LET'S GO TO THE BEACH. SOMEWHERE SUNNY WHERE WE DON'T EVEN SPEAK THE LANGUAGE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
SOME GUY BLEW UP A TREE IN GOTHAM. MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING. THEY'RE SAYING HE'S PART OF SOME NEW TERRORIST GROUP...
IF YOU THINK I LOOK LIKE HELL, YOU SHOULD SEE CROC.
I... SEEN SOME THINGS.
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU SEE?
I'LL TELL YA LATER...

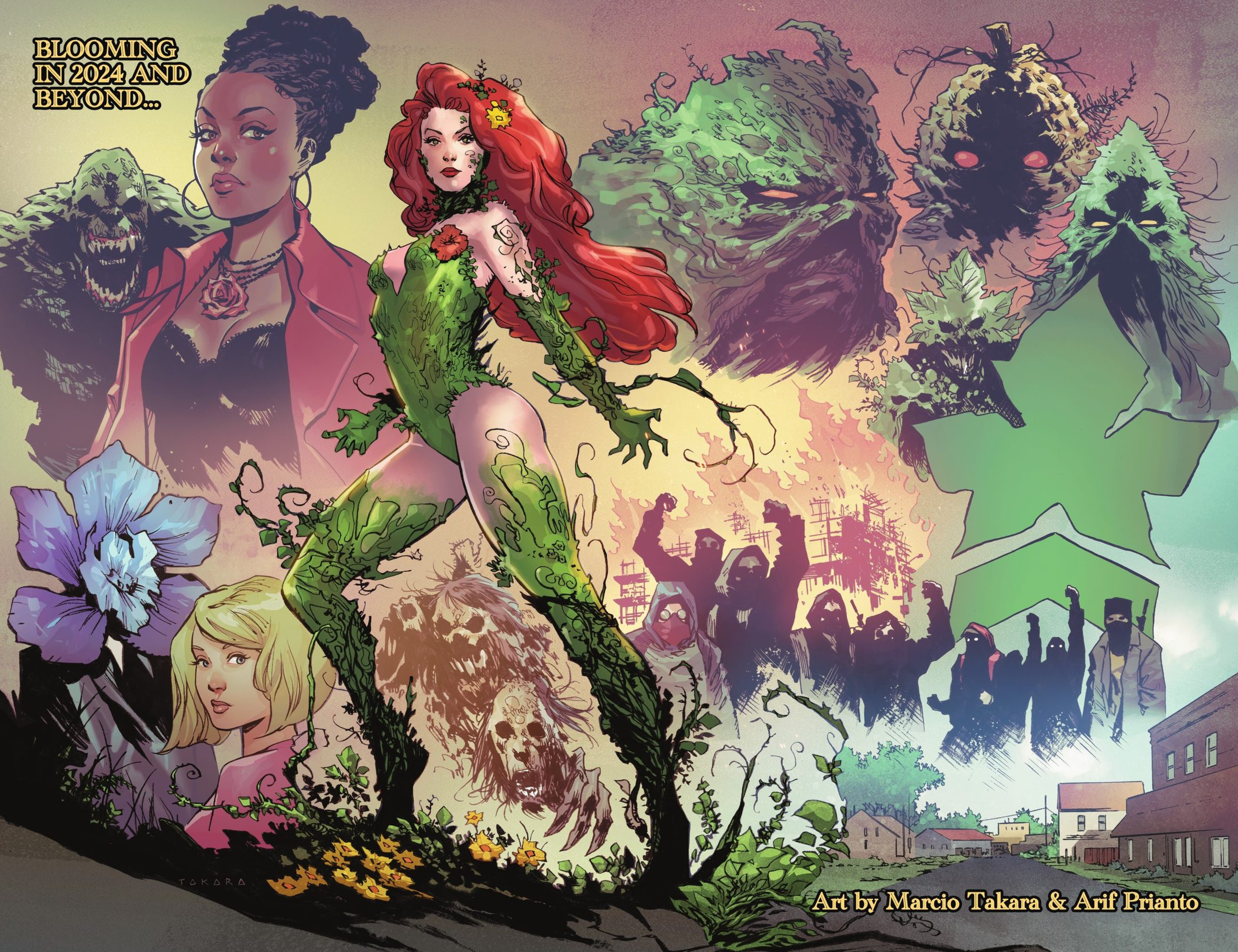

OKAY. I GET IT.
I'VE ASKED TOO MUCH OF EVERYBODY TODAY.


I PROMISE I'LL MAKE IT UP TO ALL OF YOU.
SOMEHOW.

# REWILDING: PART TWO

Writer G. WILLOW WILSON
Artist MARCIO TAKARA
Colors ARIF PRIANTO
Letters HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU
Associate editor JESSICA BERBEY
Editor ARIANNA TURTURRO
Group editor ROB LEVIN

NEXT: A NEW LEAF!



BLOOMING
IN 2024 AND
BEYOND...

Art by Marcio Takara & Arif Prianto

## LAST STAND ON PARADISE ISLAND!

ABSOLUTE POWER #3

POWERLESS HEROES TEAM WITH ELITE AMAZONS IN THE LATEST BLOCKBUSTER CHAPTER FROM **MARK WAID and DAN MORA!**

SEPTEMBER

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## JON KENT FIGHTS BACK AS ABSOLUTE POWER CONTINUES

**SEPTEMBER:**

*ABSOLUTE POWER #3*

*ABSOLUTE POWER: TASK FORCE VII #6*

*ABSOLUTE POWER: SUPER SON #1*

*ABSOLUTE POWER: TASK FORCE VII #7*

*ABSOLUTE POWER: ORIGINS #3*

**TIE-INS:**

*BATMAN #152*

*GREEN LANTERN #15*

*SUPERMAN #18*

*WONDER WOMAN #13*

*GREEN ARROW #16*

DON'T MISS THE FATEFUL FINALE IN OCTOBER!

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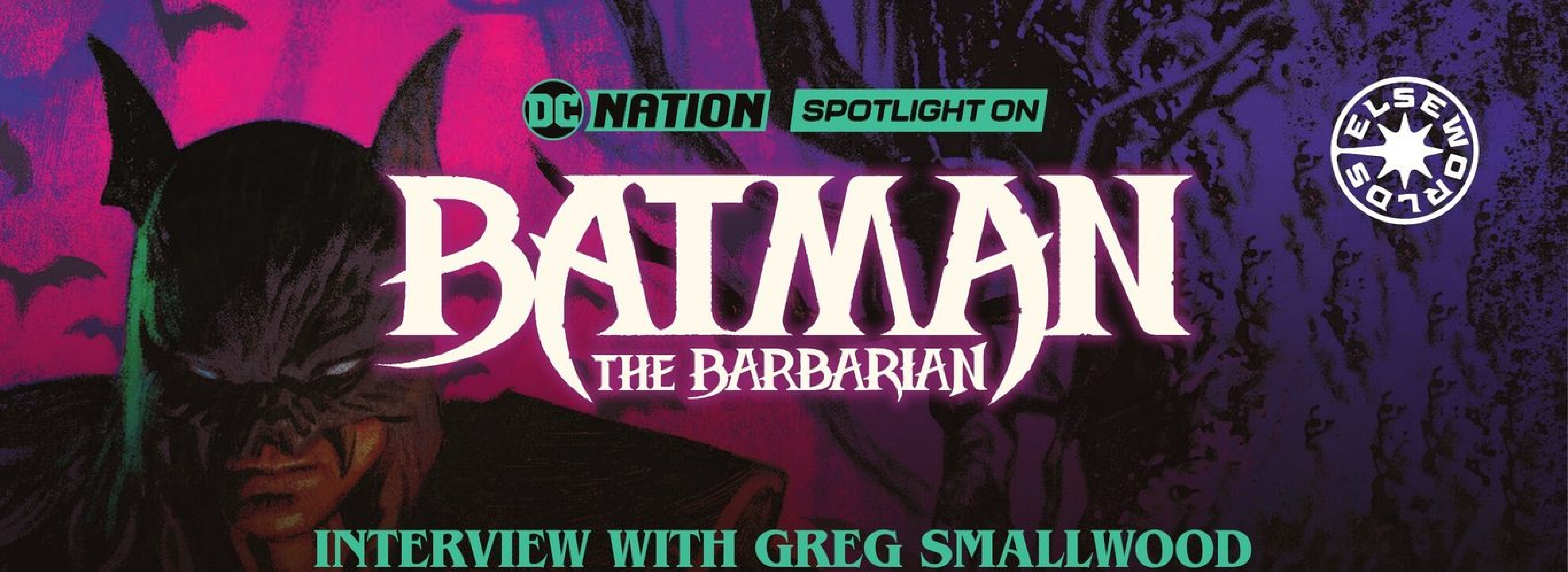


DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

# BATMAN THE BARBARIAN

## INTERVIEW WITH GREG SMALLWOOD

In a world where unspeakable beasts slither through silent temples, only one man has the strength of will and brute force to protect the people…the fearsome, blade-wielding Batman. But when an all-seeing Oracle warns him of a shadow creeping across the land, he will have to contend with foes that can't be dispatched by sword alone. DC Nation sat down with Eisner Award-winning artist Greg Smallwood to discuss both writing and illustrating this Elseworlds epic.

**What does it mean to be contributing to the relaunch of the iconic Elseworlds line?**

Well, the comic obviously draws inspiration from those classic Elseworlds tales I grew up with. It's a unique thrill to be able to play in the DC sandbox with characters like Batman while also having the freedom to take them into entirely new realms and situations. That blend of deep lore and imaginative exploration is what makes Elseworlds so exciting.

**What has it been like to not only draw this story, but write it as well?**

Writing and drawing this story has been a blast. My previous DC project, *The Human Target*, was a perfect match for my artistic style, as its noir aesthetic aligned with my sensibilities. However, when it comes to sword and sorcery, I knew that not every aspect of the genre would naturally gel with me as an artist or visual storyteller. What the writing allows me to do is find that balance between the genre's conventions and my own little idiosyncrasies.

**Have you always been a fan of this kind of rugged sword-and-sorcery world, and why do you think it works well for Batman?**

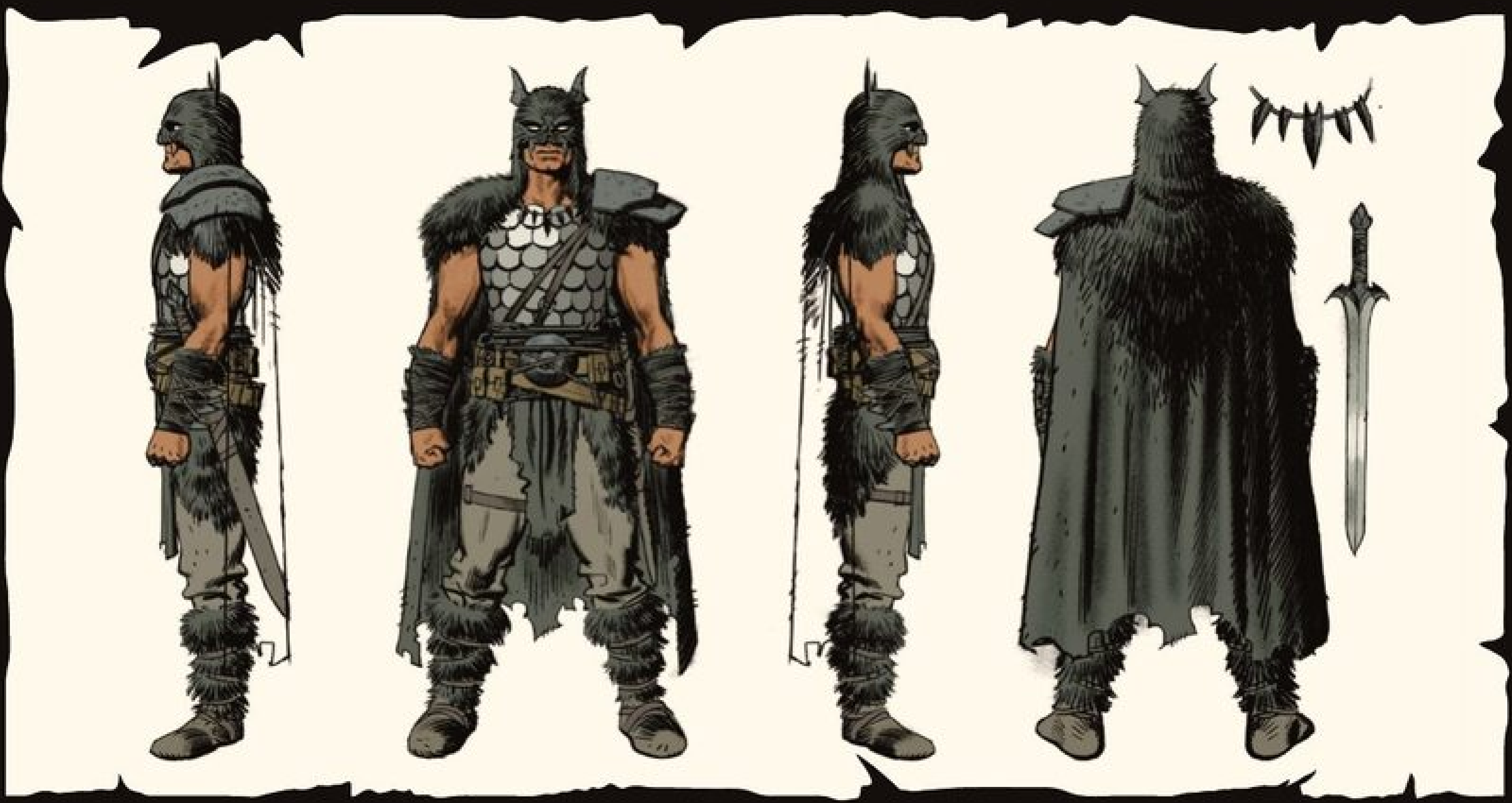
I've been a huge fan of sword and sorcery ever since I was a teen, but the big appeal for me is simply the visual aesthetics of the genre. When I was a kid, sword-and-sorcery paperbacks and VHS boxes would always catch my eye; the amazing covers promised grand epics with spellbinding visuals and captivating characters. My goal with *Batman the Barbarian* is to deliver on that promise.

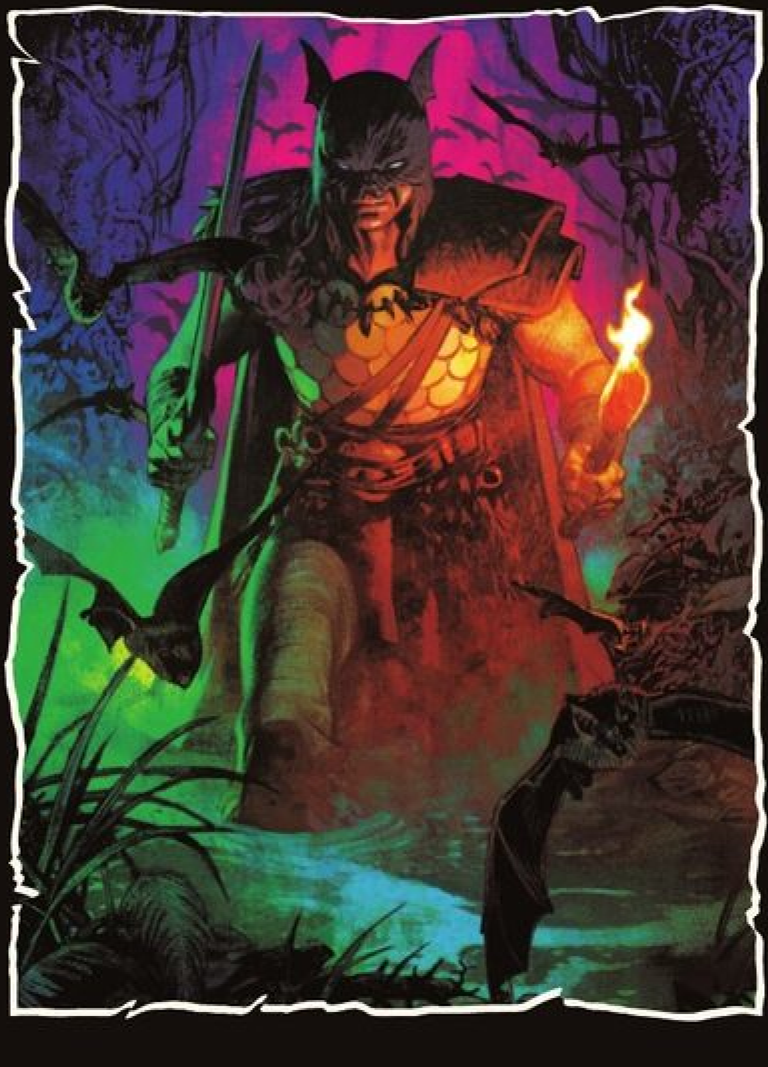
**Can you tease fans with your favorite scene from the first issue?**

We've seen Batman's origin countless times, but it was really fun to put my own spin on it. I won't say any more than that.

**Can you describe this series in five words?**

Visceral, raw, and action-packed.





DON'T MISS
*BATMAN THE BARBARIAN #1,*
ON SALE THIS SEPTEMBER!

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